

Judge Bans "Rush"

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Judge Bans "Rush"

"Sex Stimulant" Products — How Safe Are They?

by George Mendenhall

Superior Judge John Sapunor, Sacramento, has halted the distribution of the product RUSH. The Pacific Western Distributing Corp. has been given a temporary injunction, which halts its wholesale transactions. RUSH will continue to be sold in stores, except three Sacramento bookstores named in the injunction, until their supplies are exhausted. A move for a permanent injunction will be heard on February 7.

RUSH is a butyl nitrite compound similar to other products such as LOCKER ROOM, LIQUID POP-

nitrite compounds (BNC) have become popular as a stimulant during sexual climax. They largely replaced amyl nitrite when that compound was declared a prescription drug by the federal government in 1967. BNC is popularly known as "poppers."

Jerome Lackner, Director of the California Department of Health, initiated the action against RUSH. He claimed that the product was not popularly used as a "room odorizer" as the defendants testified. Instead, Lackner and his investigators presented advertising by Pacific to illustrate that RUSH was being promoted as a sexual stimulant. This fact, Lackner claimed, made it in violation of State Health Code 26670 by producing a "new drug" which had not been properly tested by government laboratories. The RUSH distributor claimed that the product was not "new" or a "drug" because it was merely used as a room odorizer, not intended for inhalation.

The state alleged that RUSH is advertised as an aphrodisiac and as an aid in prolonging sexual

climax. It presented witnesses who testified that they had seen RUSH in adult bookstore counters "among such items as penis enlargers, Spanish Fly, rubber penises and Sta Harder."

It was also alleged that the butyl nitrite product

stores where arresting officers contended that the products were, in reality, amyl nitrite. Such cases were not successful in Orange County, Long Beach and San Francisco (Jaguar Books) in California. The courts ruled that butyl was not the same as amyl. The state took another stand - to attempt to ban butyl products.

Three adult bookstores are prohibited from selling RUSH in Sacramento in the temporary injunction. They are Goldie's Arcade, Cordova Books and Pleasure Island. Investigators testified that clerks in these businesses told them that RUSH was to induce a "sex high" and "to be taken just before the big moment."

Jim Miller, local distributor of a BNC called LIQUID POPPERS, explained to B.A.R. that the products called RUSH, LOCKER ROOM, LIQUID POPPERS, BOLT, etc, are "different in their composition and their effect. They are not uniform. They even smell different." He is continuing to distribute LIQUID POPPERS while remaining in contact with the State Attorney General's Office. He recognizes that the ban on RUSH could result in the banning of all butyl nitrite products. "Then we are out of business," Miller adds that he is only selling a "room odorizer which is legal."

Jay Freezer, who distributed RUSH nationally through his Pacific Western Distributing Corp., states that he no longer wholesales the RUSH product. He states that RUSH "does not contain butyl nitrite." He emphasized that the RUSH label states that it only contains "nitrosoxy and methyl propane." Freezer then added, "You better check that out with someone else. I am not a chemist."

RUSH's Freezer was asked where RUSH had been manufactured, and he said he did not even know the city where it was made. When asked who the owners of RUSH were, he answered that they were residents of California. This reporter inquired why a chemical product distributed to thousands of people was manufactured under conditions that were unknown to its distributor. Freezer replied that he trusted the people who sold it to him and that they had assured him that it was "safely" manufactured.

B.A.R. was cautioned by Freezer not to say that a new product being distributed by Pacific West-

ern was a "reaction" to the halt of RUSH distribution. Freezer urged that the new product, BOLT, had been in the planning stage "for some time but due to the RUSH injunction was now being hurried into production."

Pacific Western Distributing is now placing advertising to encourage the public to buy BOLT, although Freezer said he had not received a shipment yet.

What are the long-range mental effects that result from the continuing use of BNC? Ron Lee, an up-front Gay who heads the city's Center for Special Problems, reveals that BNC only has one long-range psychological defect that he can determine: "Some people become dependent on drugs or boosters in that they relate it always with having sex. In this situation the sex experience is always drug dependent. This may be said of butyl or amyl nitrite products or alcohol. That could present problems, depending on the individual case."

Dr. Lewis Boucher is a local physician whose clients are, by his estimate, "probably 99% Gay." He told B.A.R. that a number of the clients used BNC but that he had never seen a case of a serious health problem resulting from its use. One client, he said, had a minor burn in his nostrils from directly applying the liquid into his nose. However, Boucher adds that many of his clients are young and in general good health. He believes amyl and butyl nitrite products could aggravate existing medical conditions such as asthma or heart problems.

Dr. Alan Slagle, a pharmacology specialist for the food and drug section of the state Health Department, contends that RUSH is a drug and that it dilates blood vessels in the body, causing a lack



PERS, and a score of others originating in professional labs and household bathtubs. The butyl



could cause headaches, vomiting, dizziness, light-headedness, faintness, loss of consciousness, low blood pressure, rapid heartbeat, interference with breath which may lead to coma or death and methemoglobinemia (the inaction of the oxygen-carrying capacity of the red blood cells).

Dr. Sumner Kalman testified that "persons who have disease of the circulatory or respiratory system or those with a predisposition to stroke risk their lives in using RUSH."

RUSH and products similar to it have had numerous court battles in California and across the country. These were usually associated with "raids" on adult book-

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of blood pressure to the brain and creating some dizziness and altered perception. The high comes on within 30 seconds and lasts for three to five minutes."

Dr. Kalman emphasized that "this product is not generally recognized by experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs, as safe and effective for the purposes

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and conditions for which I understand it to be intended."

Dr. Richard Hamilton of San Francisco Buena Vista Doctors testified at the Sacramento trial. He said he had surveyed 500 people about their experiences with butyl nitrite. The San Francisco physician concluded that the greatest use was in the 20-35 age group where 69% of those quizzed said they used "poppers" more than once a month. Over 90% responding said they used BNC while only 3.5% "acquired medicine from a doctor." Over 60% of the nitrite users claimed it was "enjoyed for its sexual effect" with 91% admitting that they used it at times in conjunction with a sexual act.

Negative effects derived, Hamilton told the court, were headache (64%), burning nose (43%), sore throat (16.5%) and persistent cough (16%). The doctor said that he was surprised to learn that 58.5% "believed the substance they were using to be dangerous to their health."

Hamilton told Judge Sapunor, "We support the Attorney General's actions against isobutyl nitrite. We are concerned that state level effort is necessary to curb irresponsible marketing and profiteering of a product that is a threat to public health." He suggested

that amyl nitrite be removed from prescription control and placed in the hands of "responsible" individuals for marketing and "controlled like alcohol and cigarettes with a warning to the buyer on the label."

The physician stated that he gave prescriptions for amyl nitrite to his patients "as an alternative" to butyl nitrite products.

The cost of BNC is 90¢ to \$1.10 for small vials in quantity — when bought wholesale. Retail buyers must pay \$5-\$6, so there is considerable profit involved for the distributor. Since the extensive advertising for RUSH by its manufacturers costs many thousands of dollars, it can be assumed that the real cost of manufacturing must mean that RUSH, and products like it, are manufactured for only a few cents per unit.

There appear to be two reasons why some BNC manufacturers emphasize that the product is a "room odorizer" — not to be inhaled — on the vials and bottles and when oral inquiries are made ... 1) If there was a lawsuit involving someone having health problems who attributed them to BNC, the distributors could claim that their product is not to be inhaled directly into the body. 2) Butyl nitrite is a "room odorizer" — which does not legally

make it a new drug.

Officer Tom Donohue, San Francisco vice squad, told the press that he has received no reports of injuries or deaths from butyl nitrite products. The only complaint was from a nun who caught two boys sniffing one of the products in a parochial school bathroom. No sexual activity was transpiring at the time.

The state health officer, Dr. Slagle, was asked about what real risks are involved in a product such as RUSH. Since the products such as RUSH (and similar items) are not yet fully tested, he states it is difficult to make a general statement. He says, "Each user has to establish whether the benefit is worth the risk."

George Mendenhall

The Local Scene

The Honorable Harvey Milk

HARVEY'S FIRST WEEK: CONTROVERSY SUR-ROUNDS SUPERVISOR MILK

by Bruce Pettit

It rained on Harvey Milk's parade — but only

the short side of an initial 6-5 decision, and they stood by their choice during a second call attempting unanimity.

Arm in arm with his lover Jack Lira, Milk walked from his camera shop on Castro St. to City

however, the school received four protesting phone calls. The school administration continued to support the project, according to Walters, who characterized the public objections as "another exercise in consciousness-raising for the kids."

Bruce Pettit Joins B.A.R. at City Hall



Political analyst Bruce Pettit, a former New York Times/Chicago Daily News wire service staffer, has accepted the position of City Correspondent for the Bay Area Reporter. The writer graduated in Political Science — with honors — from Upper Iowa College and holds a Masters in Theology.

Pettit's assignments will include regular reports on City Hall politics (including Supervisor Harvey Milk), legislative matters and Gay organizational activities.

The writer learned his reporting skills while working with nationally syndicated columnists Evans and Novak, Joseph Kraft and Carl Rowan. He has a continuing politi-

cal column in Pacific Coast Times and serves as an official of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, co-editing that group's newsletter.

We welcome Bruce Pettit to the growing B.A.R. staff.

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Harvey Milk sworn in on City Hall steps — and the rains came. (Photo by Efrén Ramirez)

at the end of a 15-block march, at the very moment he was sworn in. He took the rain as a good omen, "Anita Bryant said drought to California. I was elected and the drought stopped."

Milk, Carol Ruth Silver and Ella Hill Hutch — representing the three districts in which Gay people are concentrated — provided the most drama of Inauguration Day, Jan. 9.

Hutch cast what most observers regard as the swing vote to elect Dianne Feinstein to a third term as Board president. Milk and Silver voted for Gordon Lau, on

Hall for his inauguration. To the 200 supporters who marched with him he said, "This is your day, your swearing-in." He is the first up-front Gay elected in California. Representing Los Angeles was Don Amador, Gay liaison to Mayor Tom Bradley.

Joining the march were sixth-graders from the Peninsula School in Menlo Park in a study of practical politics. Teacher Steve Walters, Alice B. Toklas Club treasurer, had engaged them in their own mock elections complete with brochures. Some youngsters had earlier aided the Milk and Rick Stokes campaigns. After the inauguration march,

Milk and Silver took their oaths as supervisor from Municipal Court Judge Ollie Marie-Victoire.

Milk promised hope. "It's no secret that lately there have been too many disappointments, too many times when hope has been dismissed as campaign rhetoric by the very politicians who raised it. Now time is running out. The real abyss that lies not too far ahead is that day when a disappointed people lose their hope, forever. When that happens, everything we cherish will be lost ... Those of us being sworn in must guarantee that the promises that have been



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given and the hopes that have been raised will be fulfilled."

In the Board's first formal session, when other supervisors introduced their families, Milk made reference to his lover Lira.

Before his first day as supervisor was over, he introduced an ordinance designed to ban all discrimination against Gay people in employment, housing and public accommodations. According to Matt Coles of the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, the measure hopefully corrects legal complications foreseen by the city attorney's office in a proposal submitted last September by Supervisor Bob Gonzales.

Milk also voiced strong views on housing availability, a matter rising high on the list of local Gay priorities. Regarding a proposal which would ease the conversion of apartments to condominiums, the supervisor insisted, "This would open an entirely new field for

speculators." Hutch agreed that the measure would mean "an exodus of poor people from District 4."

Silver explained to B.A.R. her holdout on a unanimous vote for Feinstein as president: "Dianne has demonstrated in her politics a lack of understanding of the needs of people which I consider important. A few of her stands have been inimical to the preservation of some basic rights. A recent example was her vote against the closing of Polk Street (to vehicular traffic) on Halloween. I have a large constituency that believes there should be no discrimination against anyone for irrational reasons."

Silver continued, "I realize there is a certain tradition in politics to rally behind the winner, but it was also important to demonstrate that Gordon Lau was the right person for that job. He is a member of the new constituency the Board represents, he is a strong

vote for the minorities, and he would have made the difference between a liberal and a conservative Board."

Hutch maintained, "I never put much stock in labels. People should be the same way as Board members regardless of who is president." She did acknowledge, however, that committee assignments — made by the president — influence the character of the Board. Hutch told B.A.R. that speculation in the press about the reasons for her vote for Feinstein was incorrect, and that she did not wish to comment at this time on the real reasons. (Two press speculations were that conversations with either Congressman Phil Burton or Sun Reporter publisher Carlton Goodlett had influenced her decision.)

Hutch said she was satisfied with her committee jobs (Streets and Transportation, Finance, and Fire, Safety and Police) which deal with "issues closest to the people."

Milk's committees — Urban and Consumer Affairs (of which he is chair), Streets and Transportation, and Community Services — are regarded as less powerful.

Milk attended inauguration night parties with capacity houses at Alfie's, Bones and the I-Beam discos. ADVOCATE publisher David Goodstein, with whom Milk was once at severe political odds, sponsored the events. Anonymously-produced fliers denounced the rap-prochement. The supervisor said the Gay national movement needs the ADVOCATE and that means, in part, "I can't have the ADVOCATE taking pot-shots at me."

The next night State Chair Gerry Parker of the California Democratic Party's Gay Caucus — first of its kind in the nation — cited Milk's "untiring efforts to rouse and enlist grass roots support" across a broad spectrum at the January 10 banquet at the Galleria. Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally — the state's highest elected Black official acknowledging its highest elected Gay official — asserted that the San Francisco Gay community's resolve not to disdain political processes has given it power. Milk stressed to the business community

that it has a responsibility to help put people back to work and that its leaders must move back into the city if they want a voice in governing it.

Later in his first week, the new supervisor testified before the State Assembly's Ways and Means Committee on behalf of the now-defunct AB 1302, which would have protected Gay people under the state labor code. Of his warm reception at a weekend Chamber of Commerce installation dinner he said, "Next year I hope they applaud me not because I'm Gay, but because I've done a good job."

Sunday afternoon Milk addressed a capacity crowd at a Minutemen Democratic Club brunch at Chez Jacques. Before the group that had given him his first political club endorsement last year, Milk urged Gay people to run for seats on the Democratic County Central Committee in the June 6 election. About the man regarded as that body's controlling influence, the supervisor declared, "If Phil Burton doesn't check with the Gay community about who to support, he can no longer be called progressive and liberal, and he doesn't deserve our support anymore."

by Bruce Pettit

Wally Albertson, CDC Prexy, Wins Gay Rights in L.A. Colleges

The largest community college district in the nation, Los Angeles, has inserted a "sexual preference" non-discrimination clause in its 1978 contract with the American Federation of Teachers.

Wally Albertson, a newly elected member of the district's board, introduced the measure which passed 6-1. The clause adds protective language for Gay people regarding the hiring and promoting of faculty members.

Albertson is president of the California Democratic Council (CDC) and has been supportive of the CDC Gay Caucus. She marched with Hollywood Gay activists immediately after the Miami defeat. (Her husband, Jack, is the star of TV's "Chico and the Man.")

Albertson told B.A.R. that although the board's majority and the AFT had virtually no disagreement on the issue, the explicit Gay clause was necessary because of the unpredictable nature of court decisions. She believes that the district-union contract will be a model for the nation's colleges ... B.P.

POLICE HONORED BY POLK AREA MERCHANTS

One hundred members of the Polk District Merchants Association and their friends honored the men and women of Northern Police Station at a January 18 luncheon. The function was held at the *P.S., a Gay bar-restaurant.

Patrick Short, president of the organization and owner of Sukkers Lickers, acknowledged "the outstanding professional and successful efforts" of the local station personnel "in removing the criminal element from our streets." Captain Cornelius Murphy of Northern attended with several of his officers.

Mayor George Moscone and Police Chief Charles Gain both addressed the crowd and commended the Polk merchants for their salute. Gain appeared in full dress uniform, prompting many comments on how "distinguished" he appeared.

Moscone was expansive in his praise of the Polk merchants and expressed his pleasure at the large turnout. He said that he wished that other groups would honor "our" police force. The mayor said that there would be less friction in the city if more people would know their local officers.

In a reference to the Gay community, President Short said that "the protecting force enabled all residents to pursue their lifestyles peacefully and successfully." Particular

praise was given to the control by police after "the 1977 influx of individuals with lawless criminal lifestyles. These individuals were believed to be displaced persons from the Market Street and Tenderloin areas where successful police efforts were making it difficult for these would-be lawbreakers." Among this group, he said, were prostitutes, drug pushers, panhandlers and robbers.

The special luncheon was planned to thank Northern Station officers, Short emphasized, "because their reaction was positive and swift. It soon became evident to these individuals that their criminal actions would not be tolerated ... The Northern officers were assigned a difficult task, one they carried out with dispatch and in a professional and lawful manner. These 120 outstanding men and women persisted until the street once again became safe. Today, these officers continue to patrol the streets of our area insuring that the criminal element does not attempt once again to move in."

Top brass of the police department attended the affair, including seven police captains. Michael O'Toole, public affairs liaison for the police department, was present and assisted with arrangements. There was full television coverage on the evening news programs.

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Bath Cases Dismissed Amid SFPD Confusion

"Patrons of a public bath house have a reasonable expectation of privacy," the Chief Assistant District Attorney has told B.A.R. Daniel Weinstein added, "The patron pays for that privacy."

District Attorney Joe Freitas was out of town when two officers entered the Liberty Baths on January 4 and arrested a German visitor and gave citations to two other patrons in an upstairs room. Deputy D.A. John Dwyer immediately refused to prosecute the out-of-towner, and the other two had their cases dismissed the following day.

Dwyer told the press, "There's no question this was a private place;" and Weinstein made it clear where his department was when he explained to B.A.R., "There can be private places in a public place. I think that you can assure the Gay community that responsible consenting adult activity in private - with no minors involved - will be respected. I think that you can expect that ... You know, based on how this case was handled, how top officials will deal with such cases."

B.A.R. emphasized that the steam bath requires registration and patrons are behind a locked door and asked, "How is this

different than the protections afforded a hotel patron against police interference without a search warrant?" Weinstein said he did not want to comment on that.

The Board of Supervisors removed the "public steam baths" and "massage parlors" from the Health Department's control in 1973 and placed them under the police department. This was during a period of police concern over alleged prostitution in massage parlors. Since 1973, and largely before that year, the police have taken an "out-of-sight so out-of-mind" attitude toward public steam baths. The police, even under less liberal chiefs than Charles Gain, have been aware of alleged sexual activity in some Gay baths but have stayed away because the baths were recognized as at least semi-private and not catering to the general "straight" public.

Officer Michael Lee led another officer into the Liberty Baths on January 4 after first "inspecting" the nearby Jack's Baths. The Liberty manager greeted the officers and asked them if he could help them in any way. They answered, "No." A patron was leaving the premises through the normally locked door and the officers moved quickly through the door and

proceeded through the building. With the manager hurrying to keep up, the officers rushed through the structure to a third floor room where they claim to have observed three men in a 3-way sexual affair, involving oral and anal sexual activity. Two were cited and the third arrested because he did not have identification. The men and the patron/witnesses denied that there was any sexual activity, according to the bath's manager.

Later in the week, Paul Hardman of Pride Foundation initiated a meeting with Police Chief Charles Gain to discuss the incident and to determine police policy. The managers of Jack's and the Suro Baths attended with Hardman, an attorney for Liberty Baths and several police captains. Second-hand reports are that Gain made it clear, as did his captains, that the alleged "raid" was a one-shot incident and that there was no drive against the Gay bath houses. Gain later told B.A.R. that he had nothing to put in writing and indicated that the matter was closed. (In early conversations with Gain when he took office, he had told B.A.R. that he had no intention of doing anything aggressive about the Gay bath houses.) Baths owners are in general agreement that they have an understanding with the police, that such businesses are "more or less private."

Bath house permits may

be revoked or suspended by the Chief of Police after a hearing "for good cause" according to the SFPD bath house regulations. Two inspections are also required of each bath house per year to check health, safety, building and other possible conditions. One bath owner told B.A.R. that, "I do not consider the quicky tour to an upstairs room by these two officers at Liberty Baths an 'inspection'."

The arrest-citation incident brought special attention to Officer Michael Lee of Northern Station. Since his Liberty Baths incident bust, it has been reported that he has been making arrests in adult bookstores on Polk Street.

George Mendenhall

All-Nite Gay Disco Approved by Appeals Board

Trocadero Transfer, 520 Fourth St., has won its case before the Board of Permit Appeals and will open soon as an all-night disco. The new club's application was originally denied by the Police Department Permit Bureau.

Dick Collier, manager and co-owner, is in praise of the Gay Board member, David Scott, who took a special interest in the SFPD denial. "Scott came

Do Business with the Gay Community

down here and we talked for hours. He was very supportive and the vote was 5-0 when the Appeals Board voted."

The new business is becoming the first all-night Gay disco, although Collier says "everyone is welcome." No alcoholic beverages are available, and patrons will be discouraged from using other drugs while on the premises. No one under 21 will be admitted, although this would be legal in the non-drinking situation.

Collier has gutted the former KQED-Radio studios and brought in a Greybar sound and lighting system from New York. The dance floor is the largest in Northern California - 4,000 sq. ft. The \$200,000 investment was financed by Collier, his father in Maryland, and a few local businessmen. The manager is especially proud of the sound system, which he says is "the best in the area. We conclude the evening by playing classical music on it, and you ought to hear that!"

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FCC Closes Pirate "Gay Radio"

The Federal Communications Commission has closed a local radio station which was presenting Gay programming six hours a month. Dale Evans, owner of the clandestine station, admitted to B.A.R. that his operation was illegal. KDHS (84 AM) was only on the air the first and third Sundays each month from 7-10pm. Its programming was Gay news, music and commentary. Evans had also broadcast many of the Gay Community Softball League games, including the Gays vs. Cops game.

An official of the FCC told B.A.R. that such specialty programming - such as Gay news - is presented on small, licensed stations and that the scores of smaller stations are often seeking new "community service" programs. He said that licensing of radio and television stations is a worldwide practice and is done to protect the public from the overlapping of

stations to eliminate chaos on the dial. He said that there are scores of federal regulations concerning the licensing of stations and that most people who desire a station outlet purchase an existing station which already has a license. No new licenses are available in San Francisco at present.

Evans, who ran the illegal station in Los Angeles before moving here, believes that the FCC is overly arbitrary since his station did not interfere with other stations on the dial. He states that the cost of purchasing a station or getting proper licensing is prohibitive for those with limited resources.

Those who wish to hear Gay radio programs may tune in FRUIT PUNCH on KPFA (94 FM) on Wednesdays at 10pm; GAYHEM on KPFA, Mondays at 2:30pm, and GAY LIFE on KSAN (95 FM), Tuesdays at 10pm. Special reports on the Gay lifestyle - presented by Randy Shilts - may be viewed on KQED-TV's A CLOSER LOOK on an irregular basis (weeknights 7:30pm).

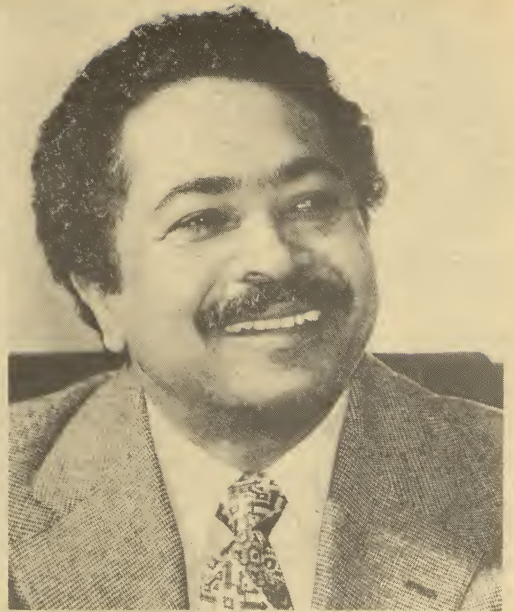
Lt. Gov. Dymally Honors Milk

Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally said, "You have taught me something about human rights. I am now more aware... The Gay liberation movement is leading the way in the human rights struggle." The occasion was Dymally's tribute to Supervisor Harvey Milk at a January 10 banquet at the Galleria.

Guests honoring Milk included Mayor George Moscone; Dianne Feinstein, President of the Board of Supervisors; Chief of Administrative Officer Roger Boas; Fire Chief Andy Casper; District Attorney Joe Freitas; City Treasurer Frank Scanlon; City Attorney George Agnost; Judge Ollie Marie-Victoire; Supervisors Hutch, Silver, White and Lau; and many commissioners, including Jane McKaskle Murphy (Police) and Sue Berman (Planning).

Tory Hartman, active in the Milk campaign, MC'd the affair, which included a string quartet and congratulatory telegram from Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines... Milk received a plaque from the Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party's new caucus. Caucus chair Gerry Parker presented the plaque which "called attention to Milk's untiring efforts to rouse and enlist grass roots support across a broad spectrum" and concluding that Milk "is an inspiration to us all."

Supervisor Milk gave his first major address, which



Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally guest speaker at Supervisor Milk dinner.

emphasized the need for business to become involved in the problems of the community. The full address begins in this issue of B.A.R. in Milk's regular column, Milk Forum.

Labor leaders from the Hospital and Teamsters unions sat beside Bank of America officials at the unusual cross-section that had assembled. B.A.R. was able to designate some of the guests - Anne Daley, executive secretary to the sheriff;

Bob Lurie, Giants owner; Warren Simmons, Tia Maria restaurants; Dan Weinstein, Chief Asst. D.A.; Andrew Catten, Cost Plus owner; and the Green Caucus, a branch of the Democratic Party that is composed of wealthy political contributors.

The \$50-a-plate event included the officers of many Gay organizations in San Francisco. Proceeds were used in the reduction of Milk's \$8,000 campaign debt.

Editorial Gay Restaurants

"Who cares what the food is like as long as the waiters are cute?" This is one philosophy of running a Gay restaurant that more often than not seems to prevail. Or that the patrons are only old queens who don't know any better, could care less what is placed in front of them as long as they get a handful of the waiter's crotch. Or fill them up with so many double martinis that no one knows what's passing.

There was the time when one went primarily to a Gay restaurant over a "straight" one because the prices were much, much less and the atmosphere congenial. Today, the prices at Gay restaurants are equal to, if not higher than, comparable spots and the ambiance at more and more places around town is receptive and relaxed and hospitable. Someone wiggling their box in your face seems less important these days when diners are out for a good meal.

Another complaint one hears around town is why bother with a Gay restaurant - the quality is too erratic. One night it's passable, another a disaster. There are too many other places that care about good food and an ongoing reputation. And the party is not held at the bar for 45 minutes with disco churning up the digestive tract and blasting the eardrums.

If the Gay restaurateurs are wondering where have all the faggots gone, they might look again into their part of the relationship. One goes to a Gay restaurant in 1978 because one wants to - not because one has to. And the question asked more often than before is - Why?

Fancy menus in elaborate English and phony French, 22 year old twinkies preening and pouting do not alter the proof of the pudding.

One gets out of a Gay restaurant these days less and less except for about \$20 a throw. If one is only interested in feasting the eyes that's five trips to the baths where there's more to see and a snack bar if one is forced to feed one's face.

Paul Lorch

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Behind the Headlines

Agnos Advocates Launch Statewide Effort

by George Mendenhall

In an amazing first effort to inundate the State Assembly with citizen lobbyists, Human Rights Advocates has

scored a significant success in the history of Gay liberation. HRA's full-time, paid lobbyist, Steve Badeau, is now joined with an equally talented volunteer lobbyist, Lisa Katz, to form an impressive team in Sacramento. Their "lobbying weekend" of workshops, speeches and actual lobbying in Assembly offices and in the Governor's office was an amazing accomplishment. Over 150 Gay citizens (many of them not "movement" people) joined in the state capital, Jan. 7-9, to learn and then do what will be necessary if we are to go beyond a private consensual sex bill.

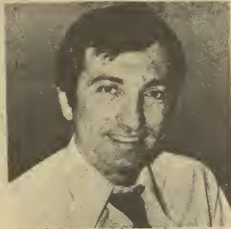
The highpoint of the weekend was the spirit of unity and determination as those from the Gay political Left, Middle, and Right forgot their differences for a concentrated effort to make themselves known to legislators.

This reporter, usually cynical about meetings and rallies, was mesmerized by the event and encouraged about our moving the legislature in the future. One of the most blunt and realistic presentations was by Assemblyman Art Agnos (D - San Francisco). His comments to the assembled touched on what our effort in Sacramento is and must be continue to be about.

Disappointed that AB 1302 is presently sidetracked because of the

Miami backlash, Assemblyman Agnos was not discouraged as to what can still be achieved. (AB 1302 defines "sex" in the labor code to include "sexual preference" plus it prevents sexual harassment on the job and makes it illegal to discriminate because of physiological differences not related to job performances.) Agnos told the citizen lobbyists:

"We continue to find among legislators that they perceive that a homosexual is a Gay male who hangs around the Greyhound bus station to pick up a sailor or, even



Assemblyman Art Agnos

worse, around the corner into an alley. They must learn that homosexual people are just like anyone else. Some are mothers and fathers. They do not know that. Some are brothers and sisters. They do not know that.

"Many Gay people are part of families. They believe in God - or they do not believe in God - just as heterosexuals do. They do not know all of this and they are beginning to learn this for the first time.

"It is vital that legislators perceive you as human beings because, right now, they do not. They really do not. That is our biggest task."

Agnos emphasized that he and the Gay activists had brought parents of Gays, Gay teachers, Gay parents and even the children of Gays before Assembly committees to impress on legislators how varied and human the Gay lifestyle can be.

The problems are great in obtaining passage of jobs, housing and public accommodation legislation. Agnos said, "The forces are aligned against us. It will take money. My own budget on this bill has gone over \$2,000 (\$1,000 was a loan to Human Rights Advocates). There must be new brochures, transportation for witnesses, plus the essential full-time lobbying effort in the capital by Steve Badeau.

"We have the capacity to raise the kind of funds to finance a permanent, professional lobbying team in Sacramento ... Meanwhile, I assure you that I will be here a long time. Every year that I am a legislator, there will be a sex discrimination bill - until we are successful. It took the consenting adult bill seven years. I don't intend to take that long. With your help, we will develop more allies as we go

along. When AB 1302 is passed, we will continue until EVERY American is guaranteed the same freedom that all are supposed to enjoy in this country, the right to live and work, free from discrimination."

Agnos has gone the extra mile with us on Gay rights. Now it is time for us to support him, Steve Badeau and Lisa Katz with a professional lobbying effort in Sacramento. How many of us have spent as much on defending our human rights as people as we have on alcohol, steam baths and expensive dinners? I am sending my check today. Will you?... Human Rights Advocates, Box 14127, San Francisco, CA 94114.

L.A. Cop Analysis Concluded by "Times"

"The policeman's lot may not have been a happy one, but suspects didn't have many laughs, either," concludes the Los Angeles Times in its final analysis of the Los Angeles police department, following its extensive study of the law enforcement body. Eleven L.A. Times investigative reporters spent several months interviewing officers, administrators and the public.

The Times reported that "it is probably the most corruption-free department of any major city, much to the credit of its internal affairs division. The result is that it also stands as a well-disciplined force -- courteous most of the time, hard-working, determined and proud. A poll conducted for The Times showed that 69% of the city's residents approved of the way the department handles its job, an accolade that would go to few police forces in the country."

Negative reactions from the analysis were that "the general attitudes of the police are often worrying -- their obsession with the 'threat' of homosexuals, their compilation of what amounts to 'battle plans' against those perceived to be politically hostile; their lukewarm attempts to integrate minorities into the force ... The police investigation of cases is often so sloppy that many witnesses go unquestioned and many prosecutions collapse. Its homicide conviction rate is not distinguished and its relations with the district attorney's office leave much to be desired."

The report chides the Police Commission and the City Council "who have virtually abandoned their role in overseeing a department that commands one-third of the city's budget ... Like the military, a police department ultimately must answer in meaningful ways to civilian authorities."

Chief Ed Davis is resigning in February. His

replacement has not been announced. Davis, an outspoken homophobe who has permitted his officers to harass and beat homosexuals on many occasions, is a candidate for governor.

CANADIAN REPORT:

Toronto Gay Press Raided by Police

The National Gay Task Force has protested the police raid of the leading Canadian Gay newspaper, "Body Politic," which resulted in the arrest of three staffers. Michael Merrill, a former Canadian in San Francisco, gives B.A.R. this chronological report on police oppression in that country since October:

OCTOBER 22

Sixty policemen, armed with semi-automatic weapons, arrested 146 Gay men in the Trux steam bath in Montreal. They were accused of being "in a bawdy house." Some of the arrested claim that they were subjected to compulsory VD tests and received verbal and physical abuse.

OCTOBER 23

Montreal observed the largest Gay demonstration in Canadian history with 2,000 Gay men, Lesbians and straight sympathizers marching. This was achieved on only six hours notice.

DECEMBER 30

"Body Politic," Canada's leading Gay liberation newspaper, was raided by the police in Toronto. The publication had run an article that included explicit descriptions of sexual acts, "Men Loving Boys." Three staffers and books, available through Politic's Pink Triangle Press were seized (including "The Joy of Gay Sex," "The Joy of Lesbian Sex"). The charge was "distribution of obscene, immoral, indecent and scurrilous literature." The possible sentence for the three editors could be four years in prison.

JANUARY 15

Gay demonstrators protested an appearance by singer Anita Bryant in Toronto. Bryant did not receive a medal from the mayor of a province of Toronto, as the gesture was withdrawn under pressure. The City of Toronto is hosting Bryant.

JANUARY 16

The trial of the three "Body Politic" staffers began at a time when the local press was reporting charges of homosexuality involved in the murder of a Portuguese youth in Toronto

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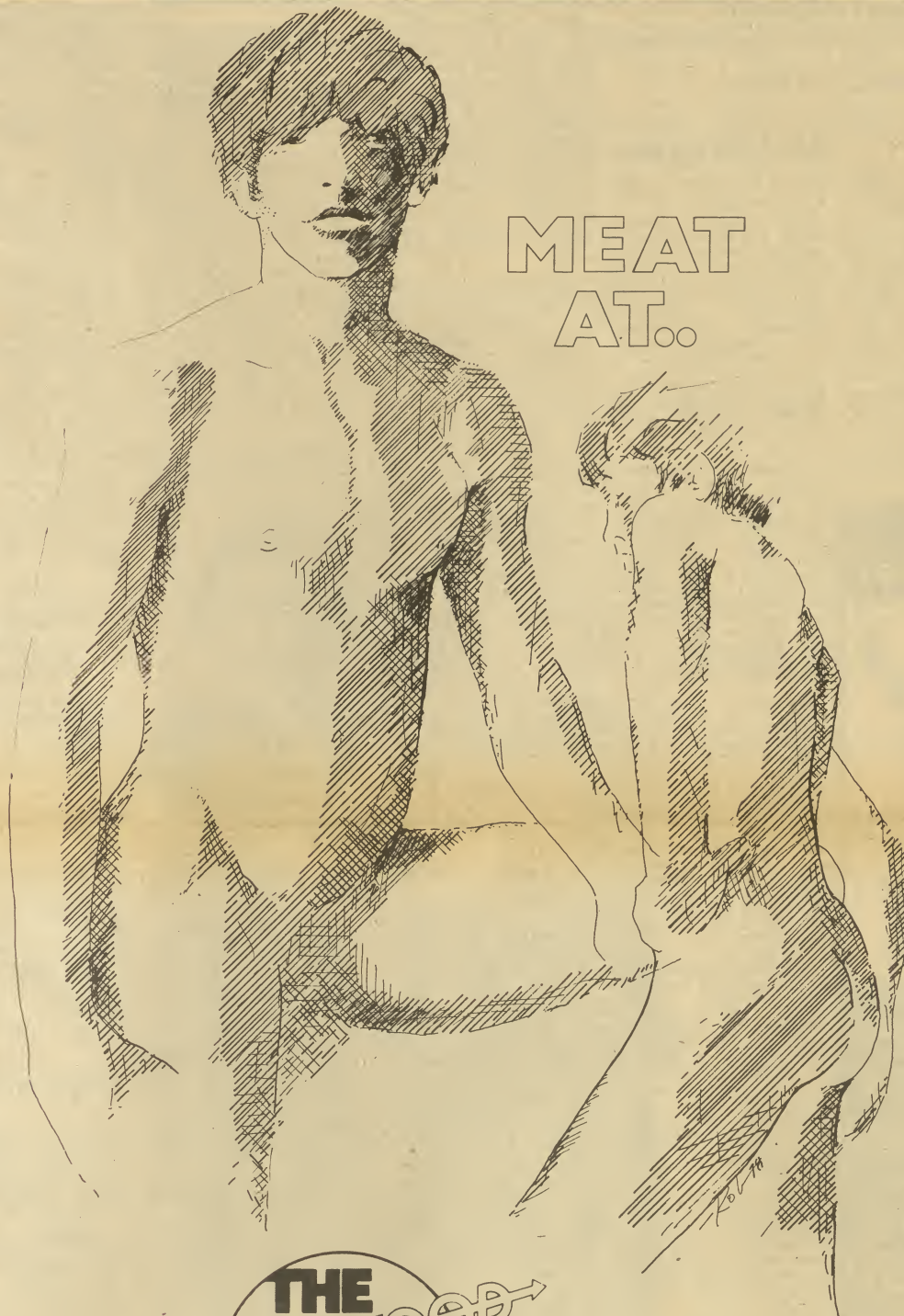
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Open Notebook

A Man Is A Man

Jack Warner

Nearly twenty years ago I wrote in my journal: "If you want to find out something about medicine, you ask a doctor. If you want to find out something about psychiatry, you ask a psychiatrist. If you want to find out something about law, you ask a lawyer. If you want to find out something about religion, you ask a clergyman. But if you want to find out something about homosexuality, you ask a doctor, a psychiatrist, a lawyer, a clergyman. The one person you don't ask is a homosexual. It is assumed that homosexuals

don't know anything about what they are."

Gay people weren't asked for information, of course, because the truth wasn't wanted. Misconceptions and stereotypes can thrive only in a climate of ignorance. This is how anti-homosexuality managed to acquire its power and why it has kept that power. As far as Gay people were concerned, censorship was almost total and almost totally effective.

It is only now that this situation is beginning to change, thanks to certain Gay organizations and a handful of brave academic investigators. But the plain fact is that, even now, little is known about what Gay people actually think, say, do, and believe. Practically nothing is known about what and who Gay people are. The misconceptions and stereotypes of the anti-homosexuals remain.

A case in point is the notion that all Gay men really want to be women. I have never been able to see that there is any justification for this belief, and yet it is everywhere around us. Herb Caen, for instance, is fond of saying that "boys will be girls," and newspaper and magazine articles constantly refer to "confusion in sexual identity." A couple of months ago there were reports about scientific discoveries of a sex-determining chemical "that may even play a role in the area of homosexuality" because of something called "gender identity." The question that is never asked, and therefore never answered, is whether the choice of a sex partner has anything to do with how a person feels about the sex he was born with. The myth that homosexuals are aberrant and confused is thus maintained.

Quite possibly, straight people are encouraged in this belief by Gay men themselves. Many Gay men use feminine pronouns in talking about themselves and sometimes adopt feminine names. Some cultivate effeminate mannerisms. There

are even some Gay men who seem to believe that simply because they are Gay they are obliged to get into women's clothing. Although none of this constitutes any evidence that Gay men want to be women, that is the interpretation that is made. I suspect, however, that the Gay man's feminine pose represents something far more subtle than straight observers have yet guessed -- a rebellion against society's assignment of stereotyped sex roles.

Everything in my own experience argues against the assumption that Gay men actually want to be women. Personally, I have never, as a child or as an adult, wanted to be a woman -- in fact, I have always been delighted and grateful that I am a man. My Gay male friends tell me that they feel the same way. And I have noticed that even the most carefully made-up drag queens invariably leave some sign of their masculinity, which suggests that they are proud of it. In a recent newspaper interview, Craig Russell makes a telling statement: "At the age of fourteen I thought maybe I should be a girl... but when I found out what they did to you, I gave it up." I take this to mean that he found out that his male sex organs would be removed -- and that is precisely what a Gay man doesn't want to happen.

Is there any evidence that ANY Gay men want to be women? Male homosexuals aren't transsexuals, and a Gay man is just as proud of his male sex organs as any straight man is. Yet the notion that Gay men want to be women prevails, and it seems to infect a lot of research as well as the public image of what homosexuality is.

For the first time in history we are being given an opportunity to speak for ourselves, so let's make sure that our statements are clear. It is time to stop allowing those doctors and psychiatrists and lawyers and clergymen to invent us out of their own prejudices and misconceptions. A Gay man remains a man, regardless of the sex of his partner, and I am convinced that most Gay men want to keep things that way.

Be kind. Remember everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

NEW GROUP FORMED:

"Continue," God Tells Anita; Bryant Selling Prayers -- \$25

In an amazing offer, singer/crusader Anita Bryant is willing to pray for contributors who send \$25 to her new organization - Protect America's Children. Her latest mailing to former supporters of Save Our Children states, "And can you spare \$25 or \$50 or even \$100? In return... I will thank God for your support and pray that God will richly bless you and your loved ones." There is no explanation of what she will do for gifts over \$100.

Bryant formed her new group after she consulted with religious leaders and then "God Himself con-



vinced me - after long hours in prayer and meditation - that I must continue to fight for the rights of America's children."

The singer may have also consulted her attorneys, as the original Save Our Children group has been having a number of legal difficulties. This includes a suit filed by San Francisco's Pride Foundation, action from the federal government over an alleged illegal mass mailing and legal problems created by a court action from Save THE Children, which raises money for starving children.

Protect America's Children has broadened the concept of the old Save Our Children group, which had concentrated on denying Gay teachers employment. P.A.C. is concentrating on putting prayers back in the public schools with several auxiliary goals - to fight pornographers, encourage government prohibitions

on sex and violence on television, the prohibition of "R" rated movies on television, halting "child molestation," and the usual anti-Gay teacher stand.

In the plea for funds, Bryant emphasizes the need for large checks and there is no mention of smaller contributions. There is no specific explanation of what the new income will be used for except that it will "help me fight vice." An irregularly published newsletter will be sent to contributors with a list of Bryant's future public appearances.

Part of the cash appeal is a call for empathy as "I will continue to be attacked. You are already aware of the persecution I suffered when I took a stand for the rights of my children. This included ugly persecution at the hands of militant homosexual groups, pies thrown in my face, threats of lawsuits, threats on my life and misguided individuals hounding me and my family."... G.M.

Anita in Washington: Gay Protest Planned

Singer Anita Bryant will speak before the National Association of Religious Broadcasters in the nation's capital on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Washington, D.C., Gay activists are planning a demonstration to protest her appearance.

The fundamentalist religious stations distribute film footage to all sections of the country which features anti-Gay personalities such as Bryant. Locally, the San Francisco religious stations are Channels 20 and 38. Funds are raised during the 24-hour broadcasting to publish anti-Gay literature for viewers.

Gay Demos Meet

The San Francisco Gay Democratic Club will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Gay Community Center, 330 Grove Street, on January 23 at 7:30pm.

Highlights of this month's meeting will be the election of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for 1978. Among the agenda topics to be discussed are the proposed Muni fare increase and how we can promote - along with Gay and other organizations - an effective boycott of Coors beer. Annual affiliation with California Democratic Council will also be debated.

Gay Democratic Club now has 116 members and has been cited as the fastest growing Democratic club in the city. Both Supervisors Harvey Milk and Carol Ruth Silver are current members. All interested people are invited to attend and participate. Club dues are \$5.00 per year.

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Canada Gay Rally Here

CANADA GAYS RALLY - JAN. 24, 11:30

Bay Area Reporter is one of the sponsors of a demonstration in support of Canadian Gay people on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 11:30 to 1:30. The rally (rain or shine) will be at One Maritime Plaza, Front and Clay Sts., at the Canadian consulate. All Gay people are urged to attend.

The demonstration is organized by Gay Action and has the support of B.A.R., Sentinel, Supervisors Harvey Milk and Carol Ruth Silver, John Maher of Delancey Street and Arnold Townsend.

Milk Forum

First Major Address —
January 10, 1978

by Harvey Milk

PART I THE VOICE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

In 1977, a large seaport city on the East Coast voted to take away the rights of some people. Later that year, a large seaport city on the West Coast voted into office one of those same people. That same West Coast city once had a frightening nightmare of the future — and the next morning promptly voted against Richard Nixon. A nation followed its lead. That same city voted to decriminalize marijuana and now sees states like Mississippi follow its lead.

That city, OUR city — San Francisco — now has broken the last major dam of prejudice in this country, and in so doing has done what no other city has done before.

How does one thank a city? I hope, with all my heart, that I can do the job that I have been charged to do and do it so well that the questions raised by my election will be buried once and forever — and that other cities will follow San Francisco's lead.

I understand that my election was not alone a question of my gayness but a question of what I represent. In a very real sense, Harvey Milk represents the spirit of the neighborhoods of San Francisco. For the past few years, my fight to make the voice of the neighborhoods of this city be heard was not unlike the fight to make the voice of the cities themselves be heard.

The American Dream starts with the neighborhoods. If we wish to rebuild our cities, we must first rebuild our neighborhoods. And to do that, we must understand that the quality of life is more important than the standard of living. To sit on the front steps — whether it's a veranda in a small town or a concrete stoop in a big city — and talk to our neighbors is infinitely more important than to huddle on the living room lounge and watch a make-believe world in not-quite living color.

Progress is NOT America's only business — and certainly not its most important. Isn't it strange that as technology advances, the quality of life so frequently declines? Oh, washing the dishes is easier. Dinner itself is easier — just heat and serve, though it might be more nourishing if we ate the ads and threw the food away. And we no longer fear spots on our glassware when guests come over. But then, of course, the guests don't

come — because our friends are too afraid to come to our house and it's not safe to go to theirs.

And I hardly need to tell you that in that 19 or 24-inch view of the world, cleanliness has long since eclipsed godliness. Soon we'll all smell, look and actually be laboratory clean, as sterile on the inside as on the out. The perfect consumer, surrounded by the latest appliances. The perfect audience, with a ringside seat to almost any event

in the world, without smell, without taste, without feel — alone and unhappy in the vast wasteland of our living rooms.

I think that what we actually need, of course, is a little more dirt on the seat of our pants as we sit on the front stoop and talk to our neighbors once again, enjoying the type of summer day where the smell of garlic travels slightly faster than the speed of sound.

There's something missing in the sanitized life we lead. Something that our leaders in Washington can never supply by simple edict, something that the commercials on television never advertise because nobody's yet found a way to bottle it or box it or can it. What's missing is the touch, the warmth, the meaning of

life. A four-color spread in TIME is no substitute for it. Neither is a 30-second commercial or a reassuring Washington press conference.

I spent many years on both Wall Street and Montgomery Street and I fully understand the debt and responsibility that major corporations owe their shareholders. I also fully understand the urban battlefields of New York and Cleveland and Detroit. I see the faces of the unemployed — and the unemployable — of THIS city. I've seen the faces in Chinatown, Hunters Point, the Mission and the Tenderloin, and I don't like what I see.

Oddly, I'm also reminded of the most successful slogan a business ever coined: the customer is always right.

What's been forgotten is that those people of the Tenderloin and Hunters Point, those people in the streets, ARE the customers, certainly potential ones, and they must be treated as such. Government cannot ignore them and business can ignore them. What sense is there in making products if the would-be customer can't afford to buy them? It's not alone a question of price, it's a question of ability to pay. For a man with no money, 99¢ reduced from \$1.29 is still a fortune.

American business must realize that while the shareholders always come first, the care and feeding of their customer is a close second. They have a debt and a responsibility to that customer and the city in which he or she lives, the cities in which

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the business itself lives or in which it grew up. To throw away a senior citizen after they've nursed you through childhood is wrong. To treat a city as disposable once your business has prospered is equally wrong and even more short-sighted.

Unfortunately for those who would like to flee them, the problems of the cities don't stop at the city limits. There are no moats around our cities that keep the problems in. What happens in New York or San Francisco will eventually happen in San Jose. It's just a matter of time. And like the flu, it usually gets worse the farther it travels.

Our cities must not be abandoned. They're worth fighting for -- not just by those who live in them, but by industry, commerce, the unions, everyone. Not alone because they represent the past, but because they also represent the future. Your children will live there and hopefully so will

your grandchildren. Urban blight will travel the arteries of the free ways -- unless we stop it.

Hence, the challenge of the 80's will be to awaken the consciousness of industry and commerce to the part they must play in saving the cities which nourished them. Every company realizes it must constantly invest in its own physical plant to remain healthy and grow. Well, the cities are a part of that plant and the people who live in them are part of the cities. They're all connected; what affects one affects the others.

In short, the cheapest place to manufacture a product may not be the cheapest place at all, if it results in throwing your customers out of work. There's no sense in making television sets in Japan if the customers in the United States haven't the money to buy them. Industry must actively seek to employ those without work, to train

those who have no skills. "Labor intensive" is not a dirty word, not every job is done better by machine. It has become a job of industry not only to create the product, but also to create the customer.

Costly? I don't think so. It's far less expensive than the problem of fully loaded docks and no customers. And there are additional returns: lower rates of crime, smaller welfare loads. And in having your friends and neighbors sitting on the well-polished front stoop.

Harvey Milk

To be continued. . .

NGTF Attacks Koch Critics

NEW YORK - "We note that the same elements which tried to prevent the full integration of Blacks and women into the city's police and fire departments are once again raising their voices in opposition. They are now opposing Mayor Edward Koch's executive order forbidding discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in city government."

The National Gay Task Force also noted that in Atlanta and San Francisco openly Gay women and men have been successfully integrated into law enforcement agencies, demonstrating "at least as high a standard of professionalism as their colleagues." The response by NGTF public relations officer Ginny Vida notes that complaints from women police officers against their male colleagues' sexual misconduct has not led to demands that heterosexual males be denied employment by the uniformed services.

NGTF states that Lesbians and Gay men in the New York City police and fire departments are still forced by prejudice "to violate their principles of integrity and self-respect by leading double lives. The issue is not whether there ought to be more Gay people in the uniformed services, but whether those presently serving our city will have the same rights as their colleagues to be honest and open about their lives."

20 Million Gays? Kinsey Institute Discusses Numbers

How many Gay people are there in the United States? The answer is difficult because what is "Gay" is debatable. While some would claim that ANY homosexual activity means a person is Gay, most researchers require frequent contacts to determine a person's sexual orientation.

The most complete survey on homosexual activity remains to be studies completed in 1948 and 1953 by Alfred Kinsey at

the Institute for Sex Research. Those surveys revealed that 13% of the male and 7% of the female population had more homosexual than heterosexual experience or psychological response for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55, for a combined percentage of 10% of the total population.

Dr. Paul Gebhard, the current Institute director, has attempted to update these statistics to include more varied sexual reaction than overt sex acts. He now concludes that the figures are closer to 13.95% male and 4.25% female with a combined average of 9.13% of the total population who have had either extensive (21 or more partners or 51 or more experiences) or more than incidental (5-20 partners or 21-50 experiences) homosexual experience.

This would indicate that there are currently an estimated 20 million people in the United States (based on a current estimated 217 million population) who can be clearly classified as homosexual or predominantly homosexual. One could add into this estimate those with occasional homosexual experiences which would significantly increase the total.

Gebhard reveals that the surveys show that homosexuals are found in every geographic, ethnic and socio-economic classification. He also believes that the "increased sexual experimentation connected with the so-called Sexual Revolution" would probably significantly increase the incidence of homosexuality from the latest Institute research conducted in 1963. . . . G.M.

Bella Fights Loss



Carter Burden, an heir to the Vanderbilt fortune, has won the Democratic nomination in New York over former Representative Bella Abzug. Abzug was seeking the seat vacated by the new mayor of New York City, Edward Koch. "We got screwed," Abzug told the press when she learned that she had lost by 50.29 to 49.71. She will fight the vote, contending, "I won this election, and I intend to keep it." Burden, unless ousted by Abzug in a recount, will be on the ballot in a special election on February 14.

Abzug is a longtime supporter of Gay rights and has sponsored national legislation to include Gay people within the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Time" Gay Rights Ad Read by Millions

"We are alarmed by the fact that many politicians in America, who do not personally believe in discrimination against homosexuals, lack the courage to stand up to this bigotry. Some politicians have even jumped on Anita Bryant bandwagon of prejudice and injustice simply to further their own ambitions."

The above statement is part of a full-page advertisement in the January 9 issue of TIME magazine, distributed to 4 million readers. The ad is signed by many internationally known politicians and writers and is sponsored by the Foundation for Free Human Partnership (Stichting Vrije Relatierechten), Amstel 220, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AMERICA? the ad headlines and begins, "Two hundred years ago Thomas Jefferson formulated the Declaration of Independence, which forcefully expresses the principle of inalienable rights. Americans can be justifiably proud of both their philosophy and actions in encouraging democracy around the world."

Later the statement continues, "But apparently, even in a modern democracy like the United States, universal rights do not seem to include homosexuals" and concludes, "To us, it appears that either Jefferson's idea of humanity and human dignity is upheld by the good people of the United States, or it is trampled on by the zealots. . . . We ask our traditional friends and allies in America to fight this injustice. You have done it before; you can do it again."

French writers Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Francois Revel signed the ad with British actor Sir John Gielgud, Italian author Alberto Moravia, plus ministers and members of parliament in Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and England.

Human Partnership is an international group which placed full-page ads calling for equality for Gay people in Miami newspapers during the 1977 campaign to prevent the repeal of a Gay rights ordinance.

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The Men in My Life

Romaine Brooks —
American Original

by Paul-Francis Hartmann

Romaine Brooks was a difficult woman and a difficult one to capture in summary — if for no other reason than that she died in Nice in 1970 at the age of 96.

Her prospects in life were considerable: life-long wealth, beauty, social position, talent, intelligence, excellent health, and a sense of the ridiculous. Despite all these worldly blessings, the American heiress battled for her independence and her art, yet as one biographer notes, she never seemed to have come to terms with life itself. (But then, what Gay person ever does...)

At eighty-five Romaine wrote, "My dead mother gets between me and life. I speak as she desires/I act as she commands/To me she is the root enemy of all things."

Romaine had become a stubborn, exasperating old woman; and eighteen months before she died, she broke with the only person she had ever loved — her lover for over 60 years, the fabled Natalie Barney. At 94 out of jealousy and spite, she refused to see Natalie ever again. From Paris Natalie sent a last message. All it said was, "My Angel, as ever, first in my thoughts and deepest in my heart." Romaine never answered. She simply marked the envelope in heavy black ink and a large firm hand, "Miss Barney — Paris."

The apartment Romaine occupied in Nice for the last years of her life (she had lived at various times in Capri, Rome, Paris, London, New York, Florence) opened onto a sweeping view of the Mediterranean, yet neither light nor color were permitted in. All the windows were draped in heavy black fabric, the walls painted a stark gray. The only light came from a bedside lamp — it too covered with a black shade (but then, blue,

black and gray had always been her favorite colors). Fewer and fewer gained entry save the aged and trusted servants. What difference did it make anyway; her world was dead many times over...

Yet what looms as cantankerous and eccentric in dehydrated old age are not to be judged as qualities in and of themselves. The continuous motif of Romaine Brooks' life was struggle. As her resources ebbed, she applied the only strategies (perhaps unappealing to the outsider, the curious) left at her disposal. Brutal isolation.

* * *

For all her advantages, Romaine's childhood was a gothic nightmare. Her mother was bizarre (the closest analogy, the villainess role played by Shelley Winters in the movie, "Who Slew Auntie Roo?"). When the child was not following her mother's entourage in an endless move around Europe — from hotel, to apartment, to villa, to hotel — she was dis-

patched to medieval convents. At one point she was even abandoned to a washerwoman in the lower East-side slums of New York. Whenever re-introduced to the family coven, Romaine's function was to attend to her older brother, St. Mar, a child/man hopelessly and dangerously insane. St. Mar, whom her mother literally worshipped in life and after his death as a saint

By the early years of the new century, Romaine Brooks had earned a distinguished reputation in London and Paris as a portraitist of exceptional talents. Her sparse and powerful paintings were widely acclaimed in Europe; although, like those of Mary Cassatt, they did not travel well and were little noted in the United States. Her drawings were even more

singular, and in her experiments she is considered by some to have predated Picasso. Brooks' work is a casualty of the cycles of taste in art. She injected the sparseness of Whistler with the torture of the German expressionists. She matched Symbolist poetry against the Voltairean cerebral. As a result, many of her portraits are devastating caricatures.



Romaine and Gabriele d'Annunzio, circa 1915.

As a strange and solitary being, Romaine remained always at a certain distance from the world. And still she succeeded in living an independent life with the lovers she chose — male and principally female. Whether as a struggling art student in Rome and Paris (almost unheard of for an unattached female of her day). Or as the groping young artist in 1900 in an abandoned chapel (in the yet to be "discovered" Capri) where she was adopted by a group of wealthy, intelligent, and formidably gifted exiles. The fabled Isle of Capri where, with her tolerant circle, she escaped the claustrophobic respectability of late-Victorian society.

Or in London's Chelsea with Alfred Lord Douglas whom Romaine thought saw in her "a dark edition of his own unquenchable

and a martyr. And because Romaine had a calming way with St. Mar, she was despised by her mother who couldn't control the mad youth.

The Goddard family life revolved around the horror of St. Mar (who had a private physician constantly at his side) — a lost creature another family would have locked away in a tower chamber a la Jane Eyre.

To have been raised in an insane asylum might have been more conducive to a normal development — for on the surface Romaine's family life appeared serene. Social position and respectability demanded it, and money made it possible.

Once Romaine broke from her mother's satanic menage, there was no compromise; it was fight or else. She wrote in her memoirs, "Then and there I resolved... to obey no other urge than that of my art, even though it might lead to the extremes of physical suffering or to the depths of mental distress."

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youth, hiding a like rebellion against the world and its censure." Or on the southwest coast of France and later Venice with the infamous Italian hero and poet, Gabrielle D'Annunzio. Or for decades in the hot-house Parisian temples of art with her lover Natalie Barney, one of the most talked about women of her time.

Romaine had a hard — but yet an easy life.

It was said that she was relentlessly unforgiving, yet she could laugh at her fears which continued into old age. Somehow achieved by feet firmly planted — a sense of surviving come what may. Romaine Brooks had, as claimed one who knew her well, a luminous spirit. For enough of those 96 years.

She was buried beside her mad brother St. Mar, beneath the epitaph she wrote herself. "Here remains Romaine, who Romaine remains."

Paul-Francis Hartmann

To be continued ... next issue, the fabulous Natalie Barney.

Sweet Lips Sez

by Dick Walters

If you haven't gotten your Coronation Ball tickets, you'd better hurry as they are going fast ... as of this writing, there are NO \$20 tickets left.

Ms. Carol Channing in "Hello Dolly!" is out of sight and I can't wait to see her and her boys at the Coronation ... the Privy Council is going to do a special number that should be a blast!

Did you know that three people have filed a Fictitious Business Name Statement. Doing Business As 1. Beaux Arts Ball; 2. Annual Beaux Arts Ball; 3. Beaux Arts Ball Committee. Wonder how the President of the Tavern Guild is going to handle this one. He already knows, as I dropped the bombshell at the Tavern Guild meeting at Bones.

6 AM is the great Breakfast Club at the Gangway every morning, and you can find a lot of your favorite bar people sitting dishing the dirt

with Daddy Joë and Reba.

Don't forget the Cable Car Awards on Sunday the 29th at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. A great show is planned by Emper or Bob Cramer. There will be a Pre-Awards Cocktail Party at the Kokpit from 4-7pm.

The candidates for Empress certainly are doing a bang-up job of getting around and seeing people ... it should be a very interesting race this year. Voting will be at Gordon's Restaurant, 118 Jones St., from 11 AM till 7 PM. May the best "girl" win!

"Bad, Bad Francis Faye" ... just love that album, and especially the cover, which is a standout.

Remember to vote for Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco this coming Saturday at the Gay Community Center, 330 Grove, from Noon till 6 PM ... This should be an interesting race also ... good luck, men!

Mike Dooley can still be seen working at Jackson's on Powell St. and during the week (days) the one and only Bob Patterson is on the plank ... when do you work, Bette Bonko?

Marlo, formerly of the Club Dori, is now at the Kokpit and is as pleasant as ever.

Who ever heard of a Deputy named "Pussy"? ... Congratulations to Bob "Pussy" Paulsen on being sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff earlier this week!

Remember to get your Coronation Ball tickets early!!!

NYC Fantasy Baths is the Ultimate Trip!

Someone has finally done it! Borrowing from Jean Genet's classic play "The Balcony," a New York City Gay baths is now catering to patrons' varied "turn on" fantasies.

Special rooms have been created at MAN'S COUNTRY, 28 West 15th St., to allow Gay guests to enter into new worlds — a jail cell, a doctor's office, a padded room, etc. In the planning stage is a replica of a subway rest-room.

One floor at MAN'S COUNTRY has a full-sized truck with blinking lights and room for 80 "hitchhikers" and "truckers" aboard.

The straights are beginning to enjoy the steam-bath scene also. The famed Gay baths in New York City, the Continental Baths — which once featured Bette Midler in its showroom — now caters to a non-Gay as well as Gay clientele.

Letter Space

GAY REPUBLICANS NOT IDLE

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest and approval Supervisor Harvey Milk's column on Gay people trying to be elected to the Democratic County Central Committee. I wonder, though, if the supervisor is aware that Gay Republicans are also planning to run for seats on the Republican County Central Committee. Gay people must and will have their voices heard in both major parties.

Tom Isenberg

WE LIKE YOU

Editor:

After reading your December 8, 1977, issue, I decided that your newspaper was a worthy avenue for my advertising dollar.

I commend you for the news content and the editorial comment, and I salute you in your attempt to bring a greater "news-worthiness" to an industry too long known for its reliance solely on gossip, rumor and innuendo.

Best wishes for continued success, and I will look forward to receiving a copy of each new issue in the mail.

Gerry Goulet
Hollywood Spa
Hollywood, CA.

COORS BOYCOTT

For your information:

The Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights has voted unanimously to join the consumer boycott against Coors beer.

Representing members of the local Gay, feminist, Third World, and libertarian communities, the Coalition took its action following release of a personal interview with Joseph Coors in THE ADVOCATE, one of the large Gay newspapers, in November. In the interview, Coors admitted having donated sums of money to right-wing individuals and groups which are involved in anti-Gay and anti-feminist political activity.

The Coors Company has previously been under attack for alleged discriminatory hiring and personnel practices, such as use of polygraph tests, which are viewed as an invasion of privacy.

June Genis

WHITE MAN WAKE UP

NOTE: The following is a letter which was mailed to Assemblyman Art Agnos. Agnos sent it to B.A.R. with this comment: "I get a lot of hate mail, but this is one of the classics!"

Art:

It has come to my

attention through the Committee of Moral Concerns, that you are in favor of passing a bill — 1302 — that will give faggots the protection of discrimination. I am not going to quote scriptural verses at you, for the mere fact that I am sure you have heard everyone in the book, but I will say that God says they are to be put to death. Neither you or any other man has enough power to go before the word of God.

I being a member of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, believing in the true and moral principles that this once great country was founded on, see your liberal point of view. Naming three legislators — Agnos, Papan, and Brown Jr. all being over the districts of San Francisco and all concerned or so to say about the three detrimental issues, being pot, queers, and drinking.

Well I am sure that you see by now where I'm spitting that San Francisco leads the way in every illegal pertension that is possible. I can see nothing in your reason why you would even consider of letting gays "manifest," which by the way means demonstrate their beliefs, when God plainly says death! The only way that you could possibly want them to have the right to do so is that you either are one or would like to see them turning your children into one, unless of course you've already taken care of that step!

I would like you to write me and try to explain why you can have the insanity to support this bill regarding queers. Communism is running rampant in the streets and it appears it has caught you in its teeth. Your source of anarchy is surely coming to an end and the people will see through your crap an return to true Americanism!!! Your crap is dying! We are getting as many as two thousand replies a week, because the public is finally seeing the light!!!!!!

Rev. Timberlake will be calling on you and I might be too. Be ready please! They will even permit it in the church because of the fact of no seperation of church and state. What a Socialistic Government!

God blees, Anita Bryant! White man, wake up!

For God, Race and Country,

Greg Barnes/Den Commander

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Peninsula and East Bay Representative
GENE EARL

SUPPLEMENT OF THE BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. 8 NO. 2 JANUARY 19, 1978

NEXT DEADLINE: JAN. 25

NEXT ISSUE OUT: FEB. 2

East Bay Gays Fundraiser

The Hayward Equal Rights Organization is "coming out" as a major political force in Hayward Friday, Feb. 17, with "The Cotillion - a St. Valentine's Day Dance." Half of the proceeds netted from the \$10 door tickets will be shared with California Human Rights

Advocates, which finances Gay lobbyist Steve Badeau. That donation will include an 8:00pm buffet dinner at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd.

Toklas members Frank Fitch, Les Morgan and Badeau are assisting in the formation of the new East Bay movement. They have \$9 advance sale tickets.

California Libertarian Party will be holding its State Convention at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles the weekend of February 17-20 to select its candidate for Governor. Libertarians for Gay Rights will be holding a workshop at the convention.

Members of Libertarians for Gay Rights have also come out in opposition to purportedly "pro-Gay" legislation which would actually infringe on human rights and restrict freedom of association and private contractual agreements. Members are currently lobbying against the Agnos Bill, AB 1302, which would prohibit Gay business owners from the preferential hiring of Gays.

"I would not force a straight employer to hire me," wrote Rosalie Nichols in a letter to Assemblyman Art Agnos, "nor would I wish to be forced to hire a straight employee. Force is not only immoral, but also runs directly counter to the creation of human freedom. As I do not desire to be a slave, so do I reject the role of master."

Libertarians have been very active on behalf of Gay rights during the past year. June Genis, chair of the Santa Clara County Libertarian Party, has been serving as co-chair of the Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights, which she helped organize. Johnnie Staggs, treasurer of Libertarians for Gay Rights, has been serving as Publicity Liaison for the Coalition; while Debbie Smith has been serving as Fund Raising Liaison. Other libertarians have been active as members of the Coalition and other pro-human rights organizations.

The Libertarian Party took a firm stand against the recent anti-Gay backlash created by Anita Bryant, Phyllis Schlafly, State Senator John Briggs, and their allies. A resolution was passed at the LP National Convention in San Francisco last July condemning the "present systematic state oppression of Gays" and denouncing "the whipping up of anti-homosexual hysteria." Two subsequent resolutions were passed by the State LP Executive Committee, one criticizing Governor Brown for signing a bill banning Gay marriages and one urging the defeat of the Briggs Initiative,

which would require the dismissal of any educator who had advocated private homosexual acts.

The Libertarian Party is the only national political party which has had a Gay rights platform from its inception. In addition to the inclusion of Gay rights in its civil liberties literature, it has published a special booklet on the subject titled "Gay Rights: A Libertarian Approach" by Ralph Raico, a former history professor

at State University of New York and currently Senior Editor of INQUIRY Magazine in San Francisco.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of Libertarians for Gay Rights can be reached at Ms. Atlas Press & Bookstore, 330 South 3rd Street, Suite B, San Jose, CA. For more information, please contact Rosalie Nichols or Johnnie Staggs at (408) 289-1088.

Gay Libertarians Form

Rosalie Nichols, vice president of Libertarians for Gay Rights, recently announced the formation of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the national organization. Libertarians for Gay Rights, which is open to libertarians of any sexual orientation, was founded at the National Libertarian Party Convention in 1975 to serve the dual purpose of educating the public about the oppression of Gays and about libertarian solutions to oppression.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter has been formed to work with local groups and to deal with local issues. It is not affiliated with the Libertarian Party, but individual members have been helping with voter registration in the county and will probably participate in campaigning for the Libertarian Party's gubernatorial candidate. The

Points South, East & North

by Gene

NEW HEADS OF STATE * FOR STOCKTON

Congratulations to Emperor IV David and Empress IV Rosalyn, the new heads of state of the Delta Empire. I also want to congratulate the outgoing monarchs for putting on a pleasant coronation. Thanks to the Holiday Inn for making the Gay community feel welcome.

tang Club on Saturday the 11th. This grand affair is sponsored by the Sweethearts of 77, Louis and Linda. The fun function starts at 8:00pm, and there will be lots of surprises.

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Don't forget the benefit for the Fresno chapter of Save Our Human Rights, starring Billy De Frank, at

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The Sweetheart Ball will be held at the Mus-

the Circle (2777 N. Maroa). Door charges are \$2.00 and \$3.00, and it's all for a good cause.

PLEASANT HILL

Please note, the new bar, the Club 21, is in PLEASANT HILL - not Pleasanton. I apologize to those who drove all over

Pleasanton looking for it.

SAN JOSE-PENINSULA

The Watergarden will have its gala 1st Anniversary February 4 & 5. Activities include a champagne B.B.Q., prizes and entertainment. An exciting Grand Prize is in store, and you may register each time you enter the Watergarden. If you want to keep in shape, check out the Watergarden's "Shape Up" program.

New chairperson for Lambda Association this year is Steve Century — congratulations and best wishes. Congratulations also to Dan Relic on a job well done as past Lambda chairperson.

On February 5 the T.D. will sponsor The Lady Richard Roast & Look Alike Contest. This will give you a chance for a good laugh and to meet Mr. T.D. '78, Kurt, and Ms. T.D. '78, Kika.

If you are in the mood for fine cuisine, check out Mary's Celebrity House; you will find a delightful atmosphere and cordial personnel. Then if you want to make an evening of disco dancing, get over to Jocks — but get there early, they are always packed.

Other important upcoming events include the Charity Closet Ball on Feb. 17 in San Jose

Berkeley Alerts Gays to Rights

Bob Brokl, an East Bay Gay activist, is attempting to rally the closeted Gays in the Berkeley area for the purpose of introducing a broad Gay rights measure before that city's council. Brokl wants Lesbians and Gay men to call him to offer support.

The proposed measure will ban discrimination in housing, labor unions and in job hiring and promotion. It would establish civil penalties to be paid to Gays who have been discriminated against.

One of the problems in the Berkeley area, Brokl believes, is that "there are not easily identifiable Gay neighborhoods, no prior openly Gay candi-

dates for city offices and no respected Gay voting bloc." He believes that although Berkeley has a reputation of being "liberal," there could be local politicians working against passage of the proposed anti-discrimination law.

Brokl may be contacted at 655-3841. Women may call "Jane" at 653-8711. The group initiating the Berkeley action is Berkeley Human Rights Ordinance for Gay People,

Berkeley Clinic

Gay Men's Health Collective offers FREE, confidential V.D. testing and information at the Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Sundays 7:00 to 9:30pm. Call 548-2570 for information.

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MEN'S GROUP SCHEDULE

MONDAY

7:30PM. Gay Men's Drop-In Rap Group. Weekly.

TUESDAY

6:30PM. Gay Male and Lesbian Alcohol and Drug Group. Meets at Gay Community Center, 2714 Telegraph, Berkeley. Weekly.

7:30PM. Gay Men's Drop-In Rap Group. Weekly.

7:30PM. Gay Men's Couples and Lesbian Couples Closed Group. Weekly.

7:30PM. Bisexual Men and Women's Drop-In Rap Group. Weekly.

WEDNESDAY

7:30PM. Married Gay Men's Drop-In Rap Group (for Gay men involved in heterosexual marriages).

7:30PM. Transvestites/Transsexuals Drop-In Rap Group. 1st and 3rd weeks of each month.

SATURDAY

1:00PM. Young Men's Drop-In Rap Group. Under 21 years old. 1st and 3rd weeks of each month.

There are also closed growth groups for Gay men that form periodically. For information: 841-6224 or P.O. Box 908, Berkeley 94701.

* * * * *

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Donald McLean

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Show Biz in Review

Stage: Hello Dolly!

The opening night of "Hello Dolly!" at the St. James Theatre in New York in 1964 I will always recall as one of the greatest nights I've ever witnessed in the theater. The audience went berserk, and the next morning, in the freezing cold of a New York winter, the lines extended for two blocks down 45th Street just to buy tickets three months in advance. David Merrick (or at least his wallet) was so touched by this awesome sight that he served hot coffee to the near-numb patrons waiting hours in line. And "Dolly" certainly marked the apex of Carol Channing's career.

Since that first opening night, I have seen six Broadway Dolly's and

numerous others in stock (Betty Grable was great, Martha Raye was wonderful, Ginger Rogers was dreadful and Pearl Bailey was . . . Pearl Bailey). It's a role that's been good to a lot of ladies.

On January 4, Carol Channing returned home to recreate that magical night. This time, the audience was prepared to scream and stamp and go wild, and when that opening fanfare of the title song was struck up and Carol Channing parted those curtains in that fire-engine red gown, you knew you were seeing a memorable moment of theatrical history recreated. A standing ovation greeted the end of the number, and rightfully so. It's still a blockbuster.

Unfortunately, the first act limps along sluggishly, the dances are not as crisp as they might be,

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CAROL CHANNING — the original and
still the definitive Dolly!

and the chorus boys appear to have done the show a long time already. The energy is sporadic at best until the big moment. Lucia Victor and Jack Craig have split Gower Champion's original choreography; recreating someone else's work seldom captures the original essence.

Fortunately, Miss Channing remains the ultimate delineator of "Dolly." Her vivacity, her vocal tricks, her innate timing, her unique way of capturing an audience by sheer dint of being an original instead of a copy make her that truly rare creature — a genuine star. She holds

the show in her little palm and never lets go for a second. Her eating scene in Act II remains a bit of comic mastery; her bump-and-grind rendition of "So Long Dearie" is better now than '64 and she is unequalled in making the mechanics look spontaneous. Her curtain speech alone is worth the trip to the Curran Theatre. She flatters, she cajoles, she demands that we love her.

Lee Roy Reams as Cornelius, the clerk who yearns for adventure, and Florence Lacey as Mrs. Malloy, the milliner he finds it with, are the best I've seen yet in the roles. Reams possesses a fine tenor, and Lacey is not the usual sweet soprano but has a belter voice that made "Ribbons Down My Back," always an insipid number to me, suddenly exciting. They're first-rate, as are Alexandra Colas triumph (true love always does in the ballet

Fay and Michael C. Book-
er as Ambrose. Eddie
Bracken is a disappointing
Vandergelder, providing
little more than a foil for
Miss Channing.

"Hello Dolly!" will always be a theatrical hallmark. This "Dolly!" may not be kicking as high as 13 years ago, but it's still a boisterous, brash romp that struts like a thoroughbred; the nice thing about thoroughbreds is that they always maintain their class and age gracefully. "Dolly!" and Carol Channing are thoroughbreds in show business

Dance: La Fille Mal Gardee

Lingering in the thoroughbred stable a little longer, the San Francisco Ballet kicked off — on pointe, of course — its '78 season with Sir Frederick Ashton's lyrical comic delight, "La Fille Mal Gardee" ("The Badly Guarded Daughter" for those who don't speak Hebrew).

Choreographed in 1960 for the Royal Ballet, Ashton granted S.F. Ballet permission to recreate his ballet this year, the only company so allowed in the U.S. "La Fille" has been around since 1789 via various composers and choreographers, but Ashton's version adapted from Dauberval's original must be the most artistically rewarding . . . and it receives full justice under John Hart's direction as performed by our own local company, who have come so far so fast that they never cease to amaze me.

"La Fille" relates the plight of Lise, a demure coquette in love with a young farmer named Colas. But Lise's mother, the Widow Simone, has other plans for her daughter; namely, to marry her off to a rich but dim-witted sot named Alain. For two winning acts, Lise and Colas thwart the Widow and Alain while frolicking in the barnyard, gamboling on the green, harvesting the wheat, and necking in the closet. Ultimately, during the height of the Strawberry Rash Festival, Lise and Colas triumph (true love always does in the ballet

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world) and simple Alain clutches his beloved red umbrella as Linus clutches his security blanket. Everyone is happy, even the Widow.

Even happier is the audience. "La Fille" is the perfect ballet to introduce someone to who hates or has never attended the ballet because it requires no technical knowledge to sit back and

enjoy the steady barrage of comic byplay and hijinks and the sumptuous sets and costumes (by Osbert Lancaster, a dazzling display of pastoral pastels). It's also a yardage clerk's delight; you've never seen so much ribbon, scarves and balls of string in your life. Ashton uses ribbons as a connecting theme throughout, from Maypole dances to a lovely pas de

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"Welcome to the Strawberry Rash Festival!!" shout the boys of the S.F. Ballet to "La Fille mal Gardee." (Photo by James Armstrong)

deux where Lise and Colas intertwine at opposite ends of a pink ribbon.

But all the gorgeous choreography, sets, costumes and good intentions mean nothing except in the hands of a skilled company. And here the S.F. Ballet comes across with honors! It would be hard to imagine a more perfect Lise than Victoria Gyorfi; a seemingly effortless ballerina. She dances with crisp technique, has a fine sense of comedy timing and infuses Lise with an enchanting mischievous innocence.

John McFall as the dim Alain creates a comic masterpiece, whether soaring a la Peter Pan clinging to his red umbrella with a look of total perplexity on his face or stumbling through a pas de deux with Lise while Colas distracts him. It's a hilarious performance, executed with such appealing simplicity and a constant look of bewilderment that instead of the usual bumbling lout McFall makes Alain the most sympathetic of all the characters.

Tomm Ruud, as Colas, has the least interesting role but several dynamic solos; nor was he at his best.

Though gaining strength in his Act II solo, his solos were consistently hesitant and perfunctory.

His one-hand lift of Gyorfi, however, certainly capped what had already been a lilting pas de deux well executed.

Vane Vest has been the staple premier danseur for the S.F. Ballet for some time now. However, with his recent Drosselmeyer in "The Nutcracker" and now his superb en travesti portrayal of the Widow Simone, he shines in the grand manner of Robert Helpmann as one of the few fine character dancers capable of doing justice to all those droll character roles too seldom seen anymore. Because Vest knows the fine line between character and caricature, in what could easily be a cheap laugh role, his Widow instead looks like a highly prim Charlotte Greenwood, daintily arranging her skirts or shaking a finger but never resorting to camp or low comedy. His clog dance with four ballerinas is a highlight of the evening, as he towers above them with his petticoats demurely hoisted. With "Fille," Vest proves himself not only capable but superior in any performing capacity, be it leading man or character woman.

"La Fille Mal Gardee" will be repeated Sunday the 22nd. It should be seen at all costs, because Ashton has created a

tremendously entertaining ballet and the S.F. Ballet has given it a magnificent production.

Opening companion piece is Balanchine's "Concerto Barocco," a technical exercise for 8 girls and 2 lead ballerinas that was choreographed in 1940 and today looks simply like a combination of basic ballet posturing and a girls' gym class. It is notable for Betsy Erickson's always fine technique, but it's a dull work. However the Irish coffee downstairs at the Opera House bar is worth lingering over. (Opening Feb. 3rd for only 5 performances is Michael Smuin's "Romeo & Juliet," this too should be on your "must" list if you've not already seen it.)

Stage: Let My People Come

Leaving the stable and heading for the locker room, Earl Wilson Jr.'s "Let My People Come" has finally arrived in San Francisco at the Palladium Theatre. Armed with such theatrical surefires as total nudity, tons of dirty words and an ultra-liberal attitude toward sex of all persuasions, it would seem a daring, controversial show that should stir up the blue-noses and send the swinging hip in droves to the box office. Actually, it's tame stuff.

The opening number concludes with the slightly risqué line, "Let's hear it for pussy and cock!" That pretty well tells you the level of the evening. After the third or fourth "fuck," you don't notice the language; if you're offended, you've long fled the premises; if you're not, you try to find the gems from the rhinestones in the material and smile tolerantly through the rest. Wilson's lyrics are simple in the extreme and



"They're very pretty, girls, but do you have them in size 10?" asks Vane Vest as Widow Simone while being fitted for clogs.



"Are you sure I can hear the sea if I hold this to my ear?" asks Ray Colbert in "Let My People Come."

have the subtlety of an-time. They're not a par-outhouse. "I'm Gay" and ticularly attractive lot, "Take Me Home With save for a stunner named You" are simplistic bal- Empress Kilpatrick, so its lads that are pleasant to voyeur appeal is very the ear, "Poontang," and limited.

"Come In My Mouth" are horrendous drivel that neither shock nor entertain, and best of the lot are the special patter numbers, as "Linda, Marilyn, Georgina and Me" (a tribute to those porno ladies) and "The Ad," a short history of misleading swinging singles advertising a la Berkeley Barb.

The cast possesses adequate to fine voices. Most of them also take their clothes off sometime during the proceedings, which generates the thrill of seeing your kid brother strip for the umpteenth

As an entertainment, "Let My People Come" is mildly diverting and pertained with great gusto, but rather than shocking and racy, I found it curiously sterile and contrived. However, if you're looking for some chuckles presented in an offbeat melodic manner, then the hour-and-forty-five minutes currently on view at the Palladium may well prove enjoyable. If you expect a hot, sexy show, you'll be disappointed.

Donald McLean

"Purlie" New Times & Cast

PURLIE, currently at the Phoenix Theatre, 430 Broadway, announced new show times for the winter schedule — Wednesday through Saturday, shows at 8:30 and Sunday remains at 7:30.

Now featured in the leading roles are Jesse McMillan in the title role and Theresa Butts as Lutie Belle. June Black is seen as Idella and Glenn Robertson as Luke. Christine Khoury has taken over as musical director. The rest of the cast remains unchanged and includes: Patsy Cain, Lazima Sana, Bob Marshall, Scott Oglesby and Jim Holmes. Barney Jurand remains with the show on drums.

New McClure Comedy to Open at Julian

GOETHE: EIN FRAGMENT, a new comedy by San Francisco writer

Michael McClure, will open at the Julian Theatre, 953 DeHaro Street, on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 8:00pm. The play will run Thursdays through Sundays through February 18.

GOETHE: EIN FRAGMENT is set in a nether world of demons, sylphs and Grecian gardens. Based on the legend of Faust, McClure's farce puts Goethe himself (the creator of Faust) into a lighthearted confrontation with Mephistopheles — only this time the price of his soul is artistic immortality and the ability to lead two lives at once.

In the ensuing debacle, Goethe is besieged by his own characters, confused with his own creations, and beset by his lady friends. As the theme song of the demons points out, "Everything goes blotto."

The Julian production, directed by Richard Reinneccius, will be accompanied each night by a live string trio, playing an original score composed by Christopher Gaynor. Gaynor's composition is derived from the last



The cast of SEX SHOW at the Mabuhay Gardens written and directed by Dan Curzon (standing L.).

movement of Mozart's 17th Piano Concerto.

For information and reservations, call the Julian Theatre at 647-8098.

Sex Show Continues

Sex Show, An Evening of Comedy Madness, continues at Mabuhay Gardens Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30. The play, written and directed by well-known Gay author and teacher Dan Curzon, opened originally at the Gay Community Center to favorable reviews.

Donald McLean, B.A.R. entertainment critic, picked Sex Show as one of the two best evenings of Gay theater of 1977.

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Interview:

Trills, Chills and Lotsa Sills

by George Heymont



When Sills tackled Donizetti's *LUCREZIA BORGIA* she was cast opposite Henry Price, a young, very handsome tenor who played her son, Gennaro. It was a fiery performance which led some in the audience to wonder if Lucrezia was just this nice poisonous lady who always appeared in the nick of time to save her son's scalp or whether there was an incestuous relationship in the opera.

Halloween night in San Francisco was also the dress rehearsal of *I PURITANI*, and things were not going well. The third act had already had several false starts. Finally the time came for Elvira's entrance (one of her few sane moments in the opera). Out popped Beverly Sills carrying a brightly lit Jack-O-Lantern.

The lady loves to laugh, even at her own expense. Several weeks prior in New York she had joked about her diet. "I've got to get into those THAIS costumes. It's just a body stocking and right now there's lots of body and not so much stocking. You can't even sew any more beads on it, there's no room left!!"



When Beverly first sang the role of Marie, the performance took place in the Tufts University Gymnasium under the baton of Sarah Caldwell. Sills made her entrance from the men's locker room behind the basketball hoop. When she sang *DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT* in San Francisco, she was six weeks postoperative. She told the press at the time: "I didn't want people to think I was dead!"

We got together in San Francisco the day after Sills had put Muffy on the plane back to New York. "You should see what she went home with," Sills beamed with maternal pride. "She's an incredible little girl. We had such a good Mama-daughter weekend, and it did us both a lot of good. I had begun to feel terribly isolated out here. So to have her sitting there doing her homework, everything seemed kind of normal. The TV was going, she was drinking her Tab; it was all very nice."

THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Sills has a cheerful word for everyone, including the hotel switchboard operators: "Maybe you could leave me alone for a while without all this hoo-ha?" This was her last season singing with the San Francisco Opera. In a rare move, she has set a target date for her retirement from the stage. "I'm booked through the end of '80, so to contemplate coming back in 1981 is sort of silly. Julius Rudel called me this morning asking for extra performances. WHERE? There isn't a week, not one week. I have July and August off, that's my vacation, but the rest is solidly booked. I cannot find ANYTHING! Look at this," she says, thumbing through her five-



With *LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR* Sills literally went crazy all over the world. "It's interesting you should ask about the *LUCIA*," she reflected. "I had thought I might put it on videotape, but now I really don't know."

year calendar. "Nine concerts in January, and next year is the Met's new production of *DON PASQUALE*, so I don't even get two weeks at Christmas!" She has cut back her travel schedule tremendously. Several years ago she was singing four nights a week, with some performances back to back. Now she only sings twice a week. She ruffles her hair and chuckles, "I don't wanna work that hard anymore."

At one point Sills had announced plans to sing the Marchallin with NYCO. Many opera fans thought it would be a lovely, bittersweet way to say farewell before retiring, but this may not come to pass. "I'm not that keen on her anymore," she confesses. "The Marchallin loses a lot of charm for me unless all the ingredients are right, and the chances of that happening seem less and less. For me, the only Octavian I would be comfortable with is Tatiana Troianos; the size of her, the look of her. I promised the Marchallin to Julius if I ever did it. Tatiana does it at the Met, and never the twain shall meet. It really doesn't sadden me very much. I used to have a clear picture of how I would play her and now I don't. I'd always feel as if I left her slightly incomplete. I love the opera, but it's a role that would take 20 performances before I got her skin on. So the first two or three would be a work kind of thing until I got her subtleties. And where do I have time for 20 Marchallins?"

She is now at an age where many singers find the voice not as secure as it once was. "In 1980 I'll be 51 years old. Now that doesn't bother me in terms of being a woman; it's still young. But as a singer, it makes me feel uneasy. I make these contracts with all intentions of fulfilling them, but if the time comes when I am not satisfied with the sound I'm producing, then I'll pull out. It would be better for me, and certainly better for the opera companies involved. Don't forget, they have a lot of money at stake."

In the meantime, she is lightening up her repertoire. The last of the heavy Bel Canto comes in March when she sings *ANNA BOLENA* in Tulsa. "Those will be the last *BOLENAS* of my life. Certainly I'm finished with *MARIA STUARDA*, and the *ROBERTO DEVEREUX* is done, too. I've done enough," she sighs. "I would like to do other things in the latter part of my career, not to re-do. Everything seems *deja-vu* in the Bel Canto repertoire. It's time to move on to other things. For instance, I've wanted to do another Handel piece, so I'm going to do *SEMELE* with the City Opera in the Fall of '78. I'll be glad to go back to Handel. I'd like to do another Verdi; I've done so little. I had agreed to do *MACBETH* with Tito in San Diego, but that was before we got involved with *JUANA LA LOCA*."

Last April she was scheduled to do her first *SONNAMBULA* with the Boston Opera. Sills changed her plans and instead sang Gilda in *RIGOLETTO*. "Sarah and I have two more years to go," she chuckles. "I've changed my mind 46 times on the *SONNAMBULA*. She keeps putting it in; I keep avoiding it and coming up with something else. It must be something psychological!"

The Gilda was a success, and she is now scheduled to sing several performances in New York in the Spring of '79. Does she plan any more? "I hope not," she groans, and then cackles, "I'm not even cheerful about the ones at the Met! I've always felt peculiar about Gilda, and even the four performances with Sarah didn't convince me. Oh, it was easy to sing and I enjoyed it, but it's not like I can't wait to run right out and do my next Gilda."

Sills has three world premieres in the offing; the Menotti piece in San Diego and *THE DEATH OF MISS HAVISHAM*, which Argento has been commissioned to write for the New York City Opera. "You must realize, I'll have a world premiere in March and a world premiere in May of the same year. I've got to have some music to work with. I'm holding my breath! So far I haven't seen a note of anything! NOTHING!!"



"Sick, tired, hoarse or running a high fever, I can always sing Violetta. She has been trained into my vocal chords." At a Halloween dress rehearsal of *LA TRAVIATA* in San Francisco, Beverly introduced a new look for Violetta: the homely, intellectual, consumptive courtesan.

Houston Opera had wanted to commission a work for her based on the life of Lola Montez, but Beverly is trying to talk them out of it. "First of all," she says, "enough world premieres, already. How many can I do and learn? When I read what they had prepared, I felt I was too old to play it. The opera starts with her too young. I can handle it if it's a flashback, but I can't handle it if she starts young and grows old. It didn't appeal to me at all, and I felt I had to be honest because a lot of money is involved. The idea has not been shelved; it's been shelved for me. I suggested someone like Catherine Malfitano, who is much better suited to it."

The third new piece is finished and she is working on it. This will be a one-act, one-woman opera by Pasatieri for television, based on Eugene O'Neill's play *BEFORE BREAKFAST*. "It's very pretty music, and it's just me," she whispers. "Just me!"



Beverly's farewell performance with the San Francisco Opera was as Elvira in Bellini's *I PURITANI*. "My calendar is booked solid until the end of '80, so there's really no time left for this city," she confessed.

TV, RETIREMENT, AND AMERICAN ARTISTS

Beverly Sills freely admits never having liked to make recordings; she much prefers television work. Not only has she performed a one-woman blitz on the media to bring opera into the homes of Americans; but she has been building an awesome library of videotaped live performances. She hasn't seen any yet, and is planning to examine them when she retires and has time to relax at her home in Martha's Vineyard with her family's new Betamax.

This fall PBS aired her *MANON*, and for the first time subtitles accompanied the videotape. "I pushed for that," she says, shaking her fist. "I wanted it for *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*, too, and I'm going to insist on it from now on. The Live From Lincoln Center series sort of gives me carte blanche. I think we might get the *DON PASQUALE* on next year. Mr. Dexter wanted to direct me in a new production, and Jimmy Levine thought it was necessary to get something light in the repertoire, because in the Met's new productions, face it, there are no comedies. So this was the perfect piece. I like it; it's cute enough. It'll be fun to play."

She is anxious to see the *MANON*, though. "They say the second act, the bedroom scene was extraordinary; like a French movie. Even though we fought the World Series in New York, Julius said it was an extraordinary rating, just laid everybody flat on their backs."

She plans to put more live performances on videotape. "Oh, I imagine there will be a great flurry to televise the *FLEDERMAUS* in San Diego with Joan and me, but that would be more of a kick. I had thought at one time we would get the three Queens on tape, but the ideal place for that would have been Wolf Trap, and my husband no longer lets me work summers." Even the *LUCIA* appears doubtful now. "If Norman Treigle were alive, I would just bend my backside to do *THE COQ D'OR* with him!"

The French repertoire has always held a special place in her heart. Later this month she will bring SFO's production of *THAIS* to the Met. I was surprised she had never sung Gounod's *Juliette*, a role which would have suited her perfectly. "You know, the Met actually asked me to do it," she replies. "But by that time I was into *THAIS*, so I never pursued it. I should have done it; now I think it's too late. I was much more interested in the Bellini *Juliette* which I did in Boston with Troyanos. That was a triumph for both of us. Sometimes you just know that special kind of evening happens. We walked off arm in arm on that one! We were both very smug that night, I have to admit it," she giggles. "We would have been very difficult to handle after that!"

Sills has been a prime force in getting regional opera companies to participate in sharing productions. Many of these travel around the Gramma Fischer circuit, which includes Houston, San Diego, Seattle, Baltimore, Miami, and several other cities. The City Opera is an occasional participant. Boston Opera has performed minor miracles under Sarah Caldwell, but these cannot be easily transplanted. "Let's face it, Sarah is the one difficult one because she has no theater. It's a teensy little house with no depth to it. The *RIGOLETTO* we did used triangles which rotated for each act. For the *ROMEO & JULIETTE* she rearranged the sets from *BENVENUTO CELLINI*. The fact that we were able to adapt *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* for the City Opera didn't prevent the scenery from falling down because it wasn't built for such a big stage! Now we are trying to arrange this *FLEDERMAUS* that Joan and I will do only in San Diego. I'm supposed to do *FLEDERMAUS* in Miami and I think Houston wants one. The City Opera can't rent out its *FLEDERMAUS* because it's constantly in the repertoire. It would be nice if these other companies can share the same production so that whether Joan and I do it together or one of us does it separately, we can all save money on it."

Another project is her television talk show in New York, *LIFESTYLES*. She is getting so much exposure that when a fan asked her when she would again be on TV she cracked, "Probably in about three minutes! At this rate, I'm not even gonna wait for syndication! I'll probably end up getting my own channel!"

There has been a great deal of speculation about her retirement plans. She hopes to head up an opera company, and the number of offers she has had (including San Francisco Opera) have been overwhelming. In addition, there have been many offers from TV and other projects. As she speaks of them, her voice has the awe of a little girl in the most beautiful bakeshop in the world. "I have so many temptations in front of me. I've been approached by so many that it boggles my mind. I thought it would be all easy and clearcut, but it's not that simple. So I think I'm going to take a deep breath and sit back on it for a while. At least I know what I don't want to do. I'm not interested in working with stars. I don't want to be involved in a company where it's a question of artists' relations. Big stars don't need me; they don't need my help."

Among the offers would be a position as a coordinator of the opera companies on the Gramma Fischer circuit. This is still a possibility, and Sills feels it could be done from the East Coast with trips out to the various cities. Although she plans to remain in the East, her reputation as a compulsive worker leaves little chance that she will spend her retirement home in bed watching the soaps.

"What has always interested me is the promotion of young American opera singers," she firmly states. "I believe they always get the short end of the stick. ALWAYS. Basically, I would like to work where I feel I can help them. I did a master class with the kids in the San Diego Opera Center. Well, not a master class, we talked; questions and answers. It's very exciting. Those are the kinds of singers I'm interested in. This Carol Vaness girl, who is potentially a fine talent, a marvelous voice; she should be working with someone like Capobianco."

Having sung with many regional opera companies, Sills has had a chance to scout for young talent on the rise. "Certainly there's a new generation of marvelous singers coming up. I hope they're well managed. Now there are a lot of agents; people selling talent, but not guiding it carefully. The day of the manager seems to be over. It's hard to get careful attention. Besides, there are fewer concert bureaus. Hurok is gone; only Columbia and a handful of independent managers are left."

A major problem is finding singers who can fill the shoes of today's opera stars. "The only thing I do see is, I think the Bel Canto revival is over. I don't see any young male voices coming up who can handle the repertoire. I don't see the logical replacement to an Alfredo Kraus, with super high tones. I see coloratura sopranos coming, but more of the soubrette than someone who can go into the heavier Bel Canto repertoire. Most of us ladies who are doing the Bel Canto repertoire now are older ladies; all of us."

Nor would she want to see young singers burn themselves out attempting the heavier Bel Canto roles. "I don't think young voices can really tackle it. So perhaps this generation that's coming that are in their mid-20's and late 20's, ten years from now might do it. I think that part of the repertoire is going to disappear. It's obvious we're having problems in the Wagnerian and Strauss repertoire. When you put aside Mr. Vickers, and put aside Nilsson, you're gonna have trouble."

To be continued. . .

George Heymont

Pop Music

by D. Lawless

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and pushing his way through a raging diatribe built on the Stones' "Hot Stuff" reggae riff, is the best showcase here for Stewart's honeysweet, leather lungs and rockin' horse gait. (RATING: 5)

ROBERTA FLACK
BLUE LIGHTS IN THE
BASEMENT
(Atlantic Records)

Cozy supperclub soul that radiates with Roberta's sedate warmth, intelligent jazz phrasing and endearing serenity. The songs are a well-chosen lot. On "The Closer I Get To You" she gets more intimate with Donny Hathaway than they've been since their original "hit" duets. Elsewhere, she dips cautiously into a little stream of reggae on "Fine, Fine Day" and croons voluptuously on the sexy "I'd Like To Be Baby With You." Very...err...saturnesque. (RATING: 7)

RAMONES
ROCKET TO RUSSIA
(Sire Records)

The Ramones...masters of the ultimate teen DUH-fense: that impassive "Don't blame/bother us" blank countenance. Look at them stare dead ahead while chomping furiously on sticky bubblegum, maintaining a steady stiletto crackling on the little inner bubbles, then blowing hard, watching the fat pink bubble grow and letting it splat! with obscene deadpan nonchalance. They come on like menacing stupes just so folks don't hassle them, but underneath, they're just decent kids trying to stay high. On "Rocket," they've broadened their non-hit formula with a stronger sense of melody, tighter harmonies (now Beach Boys-like) and even extended their monolithic buzzsaw riff to include an additional note or three. Although production values are all-around slicker, The Ramones' shrewd sense of "fun" still demonstrates why rock crix have labeled them as the first genuine artifacts of the Blank Generation. The Ramones are as mean as a yellow jellybean. (RATING: 6)

SATURDAY NIGHT
FEVER
(RSO Records)

Double LP soundtrack pack from the movie about dis crazy disconnected teen world, starring John Revolta and Karen Horney. (Actually, a SENSATIONAL flick!) Several new songs by The Bee Gees, one of which - "How Deep Is Your Love" - is coming down off #1, as their current single - "Stayin' Alive" - starts its ascent toward the same slot. As Graham Parker once said about Harlem: "The music's overrated. Y'hear it on the radio, in every car." Why buy what you can get for free? (RATING: 6)

AL GREEN
THE BELLE ALBUM
(Hi Records)

On his first self-produced album, Green

grunts, sighs, moans and purrs his way through a brigade of aimless, anemic shufflepump throw-aways, scratching his head and mumbling to himself repeatedly, "What went wrong? What went wrong?" What went...is

that he's finally outplayed his ephemeral catch-me-quick vocaltease, resulting in this constipated "laxercise" of vocal calisthenics that ain't worth shit! He attempts to dispense with the standard soft/loud dynamics by moving toward a progressively inner focus. Steadfastly drawing your attention in toward the quiet, tiny chattering of his flexible tubes, 'til he penetrates through to the SLEEPcenter of your headquarters. ZZzzzz. Wake me when it's over. (RATING: 3)

NATALIE COLE
THANKFUL
(Capitol Records)

Oh, I get it! She's the black Boz Scaggs. The white Aretha Franklin? She can be genuinely thankful that she's Nat King Cole's daughter. Backed by a small group of keyboard instrumentalists who provide orchestral-like backdrops, she skips through a no-sweat mess of inspirational ballads without once musing her coif or blowing her cool. It's all veddy tasteful and CLEAN. But if I hear one more of these "thank you Lord" cliches, I'm gonna start burning bibles. (RATING: 3)

SHORTEYES
(Curton Records)

A Curtis Mayfield score from the flick about a child molester who has to go through hell before he actually gets down there. It's good to hear Mayfield's creme-filled, tear-stained falsetto connected to songs that are rooted in genuine emotion. Just when he had me convinced that he was a total waste of MY time, he pops up with something that ranks way up there with the best of his music in All-Time Greatland. The creme in his voice now sounds heavier, thicker and more delicately ragged, as befits the soundtrack to a "serious" prison flick in which the threat of violence is always just below the surface. Even on his typical "Law' help me" numbers, the yearning in his voice lingers in my ears long past the obligatory moral denouncements. My favorite track is "Do Do Wop Is Strong In Here." Do Do Wop is Mayfield's musical euphemism for butt-fucking. Welcome back to the "lay" world, Brutha Curtis! (RATING: 7)

THE RUNAWAYS
WAITIN' FOR THE NIGHT
(Mercury Records)

Four teenage girls who've been hand-picked, produced, directed and merchandised by Hollywood P.R. freak Kim Fowley. Their music is rough and tuneless metallic rock about lust, drugs, parental mandates, school

days, boredom and murder. Though they're not as sensational as all that may SOUND, it's good to hear teenage GIRLS stirrin' up some shit, for a change. (RATING: 3)

ESTHER PHILLIPS
YOU'VE COME A LONG
WAY, BABY
(Mercury Records)

Phillips is among the finest blues singers alive. With her salty vibrato coiled in honied growls, she emits anguished down-home moans, evil-hearted hexes and an occasional burst of self-deprecating humor. She's in her element here on only two tunes: "You've Been A Good Old Wagon" and Dinah Washington's ironic "Somewhere Along The Line." She spends the rest of the time trying to glide through and above the indignity of some irritating discodrek without stepping into it. Unfortunately, she can't sidestep this crock and ends up frustrated as a chihuahua in the rain sniffing around for the "right" pole to piss on. (RATING: 3)

CRAWLER
(Epic Records)

Sensual, airy, POLISHED, late-60's British blues (i.e., the ORIGINAL Fleetwood Mac). I'd compare it to one of those fruity pop wines. Apple, say. Although the core's been carefully removed, it's like biting into one (apple) to find a worm still wiggling. Much better, after all, than finding half a worm. (RATING: 6)

D. Lawless

Gay Center

Mayor George Moscone has again assured the Gay community that he will support city funding for a Gay Community Center. He has told Paul Hardman, whose Pride Foundation manages the present Gay Community Center at 330 Grove St., and a Gay Forum in November that he would seek such funding. Moscone has now repeated his assurance to Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Milk states that "an intensive search will begin immediately for a site and, if one is found, options will be exercised at this point. If any funds from the current budget can be found for such a purpose, they will be located. The mayor will recommend the project to be funded for 1979." No specific dollar figure was set.

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Tales of Tessa Tura

Tsar In Your Eyes
(SPRING OPERA PREVIEW)

by George Heymont

That bizarre sound currently echoing through the Curran Theatre is not Bigfoot auditioning for the Merola Program. In fact, it is Carol Channing in her debut with the Houston Grand Opera. As Dolly Levi distributes her business cards to clients ("Ears Pierced," "Pierced Ears Replugged") opera companies throughout the West are preparing their Spring offerings. Hawaii Opera Theatre kicks off as Mara Baygulova gets out her blow-dryer and shears for SAMSON & DALILA. A week later Nicola Ghiuselev brings his famed interpretation of BORIS GODUNOV to Seattle.

Everyone gets into the act in February! Those of you vacationing in Hawaii can catch Ruth Welting

telling the Pineapple Princess of Naxos (the great Marvlee Cariaga) how to get a man. Islanders will be thrilled as Zerbinetta sings Richard Strauss' inspiration to Jerry Herman: "Aloha, Ariadne." Up in the Badlands of Nevada, TOSCA is planning two nights off from the slot machines on February 9 and 11 when Reno informers tip off Scarpa's vice squad.

Further to the south, San Diego opens its Spring season on February 4 with Verdi's FALSTAFF (sung in English). Spiro Malas plays Sir John, who happily bumbles, "Ale, ale, the gang's all here," as Nancy Shade schemes away as Mistress Ford. A week later, in flies MADAMA BUTTERFLY with Atsuko Azuma as Cio-Cio-San

and a very promising young Black mezzo, Hilda Harris, as Suzuki. San Diego's final offering will be Prokofiev's LOVE FOR THREE ORANGES (California oranges, if you please!). Calvin Simmons will be conducting a cast headed by two of my favorite mezzo-sopranos: Diane Curry as Fata Morgana, and Muriel Costa-Greenspon as the Princess Clarissa.

Meanwhile back in Honolulu, the Navy will go stomping through the tropical foliage in dress whites to net MADAMA BUTTERFLY as Karan Armstrong sings "Nobody knows the Trouble I've seen." March focuses attention on the Pacific Northwest where Seattle and Portland share in a new production of Mozart's THE MAGIC FLUTE. Zdzislaw Donat, who sang the Queen of the Night in San Francisco in 1975 with stunning accuracy, will appear as Mozart's death-defying bitch on wheels. Michael Cousins sings Tamino and Lilian Sukis returns to the U.S. as Pamina. The production heads for Vancouver in the beginning of April. I can't wait to see Papageno, dressed in feathers, trying to get through Customs with a big lock on his mouth!

On April 6, Spring Opera Theatre returns to the Curran with four exciting productions. New to San Francisco is Henze's ELEGY FOR YOUNG LOVERS. Opening night is a revival of Puccini's LA RONDINE. We then get a real treat with Handel's JULIUS CAESAR. Watch for an interpolation from THE MIKADO as Cleopatra calls upon the ghosts of her ancestors for help in the aria, "Tut, Tut, Tut, and what's his name, and also, well, you know who!"

The comedy piece will be Rossini's ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIER. This contains the famous scene where Isabella sings a doleful lament, "Some Bey My Prince Will Come." The curtains then part to reveal a 40-pound sculpture made out of spaghetti, which she promptly attempts to force feed to her captor while singing all sorts of trills and roulades during her big aria, "Pasta the Mustafa."

Chances are the Nevada State Gambling Commission may have to investigate reports that Lady Luck and Azucena have been trying to anvil in on some of the action. Reno is staging two performances of Verdi's IL TROVATORE on April 27 & 29. A soprano has leaked word that rehearsals were "pretty miserable" — particularly after the tenor, FLUSHED with pride over his high C's, came staggering in from the casinos and belted out "Di Quella Pinocchia."

At the end of the month, Sir John Falstaff is booked on some more brewery tours as he belches his way through the Weyerhaeuser forests (first appearing in Portland on April 26). Sir Geraint Evans now por-

trays the old goat with Karan Armstrong playing Alice Ford. The talented American soprano, Ashley Putnam, sings the role of Nanetta. The production heads north in the beginning of May to Seattle for a final fanciful fugue while Ford frolics in the forest with his fickle wife. Forget about any trees moving to Dunsmuir: MACBETH isn't until January 1979.

On May 26 Western Opera Theatre returns to San Francisco to play the Palace of Fine Arts. All works are in English, performances are cheap, and it is a damned good buy! Opening night is a new production of Puccini's LA BOHEME. This means we will finally learn just what kind of fetish Colline has had for his coat all these years. Also on the menu is DON PASQUALE, and wait: Could it be?? Well, Holy Son-of-a-Bitch, SUSANNAH is back in the repertoire. Carlisle Floyd's opera possesses a rare beauty; make every attempt to see it.

The last seasonal performances are in Reno again. If you are thinking of getting a marriage license, you should first check with THE BATTERED BRIDE; recently she has been getting mounted quite a bit. Omaha does a production in April, and next year the Met will be putting her onstage. Don't scoff at Reno, either. Two years ago Nevada Opera Guild presented the American premiere of Tchaikovsky's MAID OF ORLEANS. This Spring Joan of Arc resurfaces in Boston, where Sarah Caldwell has all intentions of lighting her fire.

In July the Summer festivals start, and you can lay bets that Seattle will go at it full force with rings on their fingers and swords in their trees. Meanwhile, word has filtered down that the West Potrero Hill Friends of Grand Opera have suffered a setback in attempts to stage Catalani's LA WALLY. The grand finale calls for an Alpine avalanche. At a recent tech rehearsal, 4000 bags of Kraft miniature marshmallows bombarded the stage. Both La Wally and her St. Bernard freaked and the production might have to be abandoned. Back to Meyerbeer's L'ETOILE DU NORD!

* * * For those of you who have enjoyed TALES OF TESSITURA, you can now accompany me on my future opera travels. Starting this summer I will be organizing opera trips for Gays in conjunction with Small World Tours. Initial outings will include the Seattle Ring Cycle (and King Tut Exhibit), and the Santa Fe Opera. If you would like to be placed on a mailing list, call 494-1556. Ask for a brochure and keep your eyes posted for future announcements. Hope to see you this summer!



The Fourth Annual Cable Car Awards will be presented on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 7:30pm in the Empire Room of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel (Powell and Sutter).

The Cable Car Awards celebrate those outstanding activities and events throughout the year by deserving individuals, organizations and businesses. The 1977 Awards will also honor prominent, active and concerned communities outside the Bay Area.

The Awards will be presented by local celebrities with intermittent entertainment by many of the community's favorite talents.

The Cable Car Awards is traditionally a Gay fund-raising benefit for San Francisco Gay charities. The proceeds this year will go to the Pride Foundation and the Peoples Fund, a fund which has disbursed thousands of dollars to assist our Gay brothers and sisters in extreme emergencies. Tickets for the 1977 Cable Car Awards are \$5.00 advance reserved; \$4.00 unreserved at the door; and \$3.00 advance unreserved. Tickets are on sale at Urban Country (formerly Bella's World), Febe's, King's Court, Kokpit, *P.S. Restaurant, Record House and the Starlight Room.

The evening opens with a Pre-Awards Cocktail Party at the Kokpit from 4:00 to 7:00pm and closes with a Victory Party at Mark Calhoun's Starlight Room.

The recipients are selected via three methods: local critics make selections in the theatrical areas; the Cable Car Awards Committee votes certain awards; and the remainder are chosen by public voting the night of the awards. Voting will end at 7:30pm.

Peace & Pieces Foundation

Sunday, Jan. 29, five noted Gay photographers — Daniel Nicolletta, "Cookie," Efrén Ramirez, Sandy Graham and Rink — will present a documentary photographic slide show at Peace and Pieces Foundation, Bldg. 312 North, Fort Mason, from 4:00 to 6:00pm. The show will be free and open to the public.

Also on January 29, from 2:00 to 4:00pm, an open poetry reading for Gay poets in Bldg. 312 North, Fort Mason. Free and everyone is welcome. The host will be author Todd S. J. Lawson ("The 69 Days of Easter" and "The Empire of Howard Hughes"). Bring your manuscripts!

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Wander Lust

Greece: Athens

by A. Marc Leventhal

The kid was sweet and delicious. It was the first time I ever ate kid, and the Greeks do have a way with roasting young goat. The small restaurant located beyond the dingy railway station in Athens specializes in this deli-

cacy and was crowded with families and couples. My host for the evening was George Soultis, operator of Gay cruises and bus tours of Greece. This dark, handsome Greek and his assistant, Errol, were treating me to the local

delicacies. The olives, the salad with feta cheese, the dessert of yogurt and honey — all excellent. While sipping Retsina wine, with its piney flavor, I listened closely to George's description of Greek customs and did my share by spilling the last few drops from my wine glass onto the tile floor in tribute to the gods.

On our way to the Plaka (the stepped night-life zone below the Acropolis) George and Errol pointed out the hotels where I should book some of my Gay clients. Small hotels overlooking the police barracks, and those across from the bus and railway stations where the military abound. Of course, these are not in the category of the Grand Bretagne or the King George, those superior hotels facing Syntagma (Constitution) Square. In Syntagma Square one may sit serviced by sidewalk cafes and sip a coffee or nurse a beer for hours on end and enjoy the sun and the passing parade. For one's emergency needs, there is a public convenience (men's room) which, for some strange reason, seems to be very active between 5 and 7pm. Another active location is the Zappeion area in the National Gardens nearby, where strange and wonderful things happen in the bushes at all hours of the night.

Meanwhile, back in the Plaka, the streets and steps are lined with tavernas and shops, and cars wind their way through the locals and tourists. The popular Gay spots are bars — Mykonos, Zodiac, Vegelis, Yiannis and Christophers. On the main steps is the V.O. which is often frequented by uniformed military and hustlers.

Of course, you just might be in Athens to see the sights. And, indeed, there is much to see. I couldn't resist buying a supply of the most obvious postcard on display at the many street kiosks, depicting a satyr with a large anatomical display. The original is a small bronze on view at a fabulous National Archeological Museum at Tositsa Street and Patission Avenue. The museum houses the world's grandest collection of antiquities — it has the thrilling golden treasury from Troy as well as bronzes, friezes and marble statues.

The Acropolis is a must on everyone's first trip to Greece; and even though they have now prohibited one from walking through the actual temples themselves, the site is awesome and beautiful.

But Athens is the starting off point for touring Greece. There is so much more ahead.

Anita Bryant, Growing Church Interest Rated Top Stories by Gay Religious Editors

LOS ANGELES — Anita Bryant's alleged misuse of scripture against Gay people, and marked growth in church interest in Gay ministry, were rated Nos. 1 and 2 among Gay church news stories of 1977 by the Gay Religious Editors Assn.

The No. 3 story was the ordination last January of Ellen Marie Barrett, an open Lesbian, as an Episcopalian priest, the association's editor-members voted. Fourth was the silencing imposed on Fr. John McNeill, author of "The Church and the Homosexual." It was the second time the Vatican had ordered the Jesuit celibate not to write or lecture on homosexuality.

Fifth among the Top Ten Gay Church Stories of 1977 were declarations for Gay rights, or carefully neutral and non-judgmental study papers, issued in 1977 by the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, the Southern Presbyterians, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), the Unitarian-Universalist Assn. and several Catholic bishops.

Participating in the Top Ten ranking were W. A. Doubleday of Cambridge, Mass., editor of Integrity (Episcopal) Forum; Gabriel Lanci of Brooklyn, N.Y., managing editor of Insight, a Gay Catholic quarterly sponsored by Dignity, Inc.; Ted Weeman of Oakland, Calif., editor of Voice of the Turtle, newsletter of American Baptists Concerned; Chris Glaser of Los Angeles, editor of More Light, newsletter of Presbyterians for Gay Concerns; Bruce Grimes of Sumner, Pa., Quaker editor of the Friends Committee for Gay Concerns newsletter; and Howard Erickson of Los Angeles, a newspaper journalist who edits The Gay Lutheran and who originated the Top Ten ranking.

The six are representative of the newsletters published by Gay caucuses or synagogues active in 14 U.S. denominations. Other in the Top Ten stories were:

Sixth, "Catholic Theological Society book calls for fresh look at sexual ethics." Seventh, "Guy Charles resigns, Liberation House ends its anti-Gay campaign." Eighth, "Thomas Sweetin, Gay celibate, ousted from Jesuit order."

Ninth, "Southern Baptists, American Lutherans, Missouri Synod Lutherans, Seventh-day Adventists, Episcopalian bishops issue harsh papers or resolutions."

Tenth place was a tie between the Denver convention of Metropolitan

Community Church, the largest Gay meeting of any kind ever held, and the retirements — after four years of service each — of Paul Diederich and Fr. Tom Oddo, Boston, and the Rev. David Sindt, Chicago, from Dignity and the Presbyterian caucus.

Church condemnations, though rated only No. 9 by the Gay editors, won prominent display in some church journals during the year. "Yet these were little more than repetitions of what many in the church have alleged for decades," Erickson observed.

"In the 'man bites dog' school of journalism, it isn't very big news anymore. The sweeping reappraisal of attitudes, now under way in many churches, is news — encouraging news for Gay people, their parents and others in their families."

Cordova "Closet Case"? — Gets 5 Years/Life

John Cordova, 20, has been sentenced from 5-years-to-Life in the slaying of Robert Hillsborough. The sentence, on a Second Degree Murder charge, is under the indeterminate sentencing law, in effect at the time of the murder. Cordova could be up for parole as early as 3½ years.

Speculation that Cordova himself was a passive "trade" participant in homosexual encounters continues. B.A.R. received reports of Cordova's alleged homosexual activities months ago but could not confirm them. The current New West magazine has a brief article which repeats the story that Cordova, when under intoxication, had been involved in male/male sex. Cordova himself denies the stories.

Under 21 "Raps"

A free drop-in rap group for Gay men under 21 will begin meeting Friday, Jan. 20, from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Gay Community Center, 330 Grove St., San Francisco, and will continue to meet every Friday night thereafter.

The purpose of this group is to provide a safe, comfortable space where Gay men under 21 can talk about any problem, i.e.: "telling" parents, guilt feelings, dealing with schoolmates, coming out, or whatever.

The leader of the group, Ray Frisby, a psychiatric technician, has had several years experience with Gay men's raps, including: G40 Plus, Berkeley Gay Men's Raps, Pacific Center, Gestalt Workshops. Phone 863-9000 for details.

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SPORTS

by Jim Duncan

GAY VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The final week of practice for the ten teams in the G.V.L. found several teams reaching their peak. League play begins at 7:00pm on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Everett Jr. High and will continue for ten weeks. Pre-season favorites appear to be Bear Hollow, The City (both USA Athletic Club teams) and Totie's. Any Gay person may still join the league by signing up at Tuffy's Sports Shop. Rosters will be frozen after the third week . . . if you would enjoy adding volleyball to your schedule, be sure and beat the deadline.

SAN FRANCISCO SOFTBALL

Both the Community Softball League (C.S.L.) and the Gay Softball League (G.S.L.) are actively engaged in preparations for their respective seasons.

In early April, the brand new G.S.L. will kick-off its first season with a weekend of parties, culminating in opening day ceremonies at Hayward Field. The first ever G.S.L. game will feature the Bear Hollow Grizzlies vs. Jocks bar of San Jose.

The other eight teams will square off the following week and will match Castro Station vs. Eagle Creek Saloon, Alfie's vs. S.F. Drug Program, Tuffy's vs. U.S.A. Athletic Club, and The City vs. a guest team.

Jocks from San Jose will play half of their games at home, and the remainder in San Francisco. With only one team in San Jose, Jocks just might dominate the league. However, Tuffy's and the U.S.A. have assembled an impressive set of players and will give San Francisco excellent representation in the G.S.L. On Castro Street, both Emperor Jim Ostlund and his Castro Station Engineers and Chuck Barricman and his Bear Hollow Grizzlies will field tough teams.

The Gay Softball League champions will obviously challenge the C.S.L. in post-season play for the right to represent San Francisco.

With their publicly expressed desire to "build bridges to the straight community through softball," the C.S.L. (Community Softball League) will field 17 teams in 1978.

April 23 at Hayward Field, Oil Can Harry's will entertain Dave's Baths in the annual C.S.L. opening day game. Division One will be headed up by

Sutter's Mill, The Hut (Sacramento), and The Mint; Division Two by The Pendulum and Oil Can Harry's; and Division Three by the Rainbow Cattle Company and Totie's.

The C.S.L. teams, like the G.S.L., will be playing for the right to play the Police and the New York teams in September.

There are lots of incentives for all players this year, and I encourage all of you to support all Gay players and teams.

GAY SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

In 1978, San Francisco will host invitational tournaments for a wide variety of sports. Volleyball, tennis, track & field, swimming & diving, basketball, and skiing (at Tahoe) head up the events. The USA Athletic Club will organize all tournaments and has a staff of five athletic directors and 22 coaches to manage the training programs.

The USA has already entertained Los Angeles in flag football, volleyball and basketball. On February 10, 11 and 12, the USA returns to L.A. for rematches.

Also scheduled for competition in 1978 are boxing, collegiate-style wrestling, karate, judo, white-water rafting and frisbee.

Anyone desiring information on the USA Athletic Club and/or Gay sports may contact me at 621-2128. Additionally, if you have any sports news,

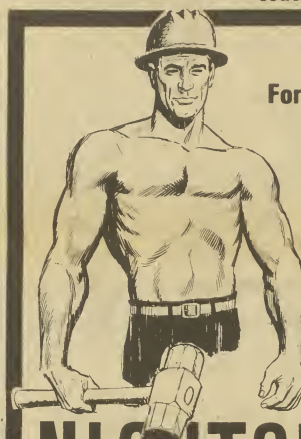
give me a call or visit the clubhouse at 597 Castro.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

The annual Cable Car Awards for community service will be presented January 29. One of the evening's highlights will be the presentation of the "Sports Writer of the Year" Award. The nominees are Ken "Tuffy" Adams, Mark Brown, Irene, Sarah Sportscoop and Peter Switzer.

A well-publicized dispute about Gay softball has soured the relations and sports reporting of this group of sports activists.

As the newest sports writer for B.A.R., I would like to see all the Gay publications and their sports writers handle Gay sports with a little more dignity this year. Let's fairly report on ALL athletic activities, whether or not we like the coaches, players or fans.



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Softball is only ONE athletic activity, and it would be a service to the community to be able to read about ALL Gay sports in each Gay paper.

Jim Duncan

Cues & Miscues

by Bruno Bereshnoy

I BEAM, KEN BEAMS: Ken Marquis (De Sade) recently stepped down from his post as Tournament Director at the Leatherneck. In recent months, between filling his Office responsibilities and running the weekly tournaments, he managed to put together a fine team at the I-Beam. His rookie team is now hardening into a formidable competitor; in fact, his players "shoot" so well that they are calling themselves the "Erectors."

A BONER: Larry Schwartz of the BONES pool team recently appeared at the Cinch Saloon's weekly pool tourney with a "lean and hungry look." No doubt he was there to win — and, he did just that as he disposed of some of the best players in town (including "Fish," who came in second). Nice going, Larry... now cut that shit out!

NOW AND THEN one hears that S.F.'s Gay community is distinctly split down the middle — that is, between the gals and guys and never the twain shall meet. Wrong again!



Pool enthusiasts (L. to R.) Doug MacDonald, Arena Team Capt.; John Ford, Sr. Referee; Luby Pelletier, Rainbow Team Capt. and SF Pool League Secretary.

Recently I tripped out to Peg's Place (a member of the S.F. Pool Association) only to find one of the mellowest atmospheres to be found anywhere. The perfectly levelled, well-lit pool playing area is HOT. Plenty of fine pool players and pretty faces add personality to Peg's. The Place has really made an impression on the male membership of SFPA... well, another MYTH smashed to tidbits.

MEANWHILE, The Cellar Sluts of the SFPA are presently walking the streets, rampaging every member pool table in sight. The Sluts are preparing themselves for their season's opener at Bones on Monday, Jan. 23, at 8:00pm. Danny, the main Slut (I mean, Team Captain), proposes a helluva con-fron-tation when the Sluts meet the Brig Fighting Cocks... their pool match ought to be

good, too!

LUBY PELLETIER, SFPA Secretary, has been locking up his advertising campaign; tying up the loose ends; and simply staying on top of SFPA's official monthly news bulletin to be released soon. In addition to bondage, he and Jerry Peloquin (SFPA Treasurer) have put together a fine weekly pool tourney at the Rainbow Cattle Co. The event will be staged every Thursday evening at 8:00. Some of the best pool players in town hang out here.

* * * SFPA SCHEDULE

JAN. 23 (MON)

Cinch at BLACK & BLUE, 8:00
Eagle Creek at I-BEAM, 9:30
Cellar at BONES, 8:00

Balcony at BEAR HOLLOW, 8:00
House of Harmony at ARENA, 8:00

JAN. 24 (TUE)

Leatherneck at HOUSE OF HARMONY, 8:00
Peg's Place at CELLAR, 8:00

Brig at BEAR HOLLOW, 8:00
Bones at BALCONY, 8:00

Rainbow at PEG'S PLACE, 8:00

JAN. 31 (TUE)

Rainbow at LEATHERNECK, 8:30

JAN. 30 (MON)

Lavender U Joggers

MEN AND WOMEN JOGGING FOR FUN AND EXERCISE

All events start at 10:00am Sunday morning, rain or shine! Jogging is not only fun but also beneficial for almost everyone regardless of age or physical condition. Learn how to jog at your own pace. If you have always wanted to start jogging but were uncertain about how to begin, join us! All are welcome — beginners and experienced joggers. Meet others who share the same interest.

For more information call Bud, 826-7060; Gardner, 626-9082; or Jack, 626-1350

JANUARY 22

MARINA GREEN RUN. Meet across from the Marina Safeway for this easy nautical run.

JANUARY 29

WINDMILL-CHAIN OF LAKES RUN. Meet at the north windmill in Golden Gate Park for this scenic run through a lesser-known part of the park.

Books

by Frank Howell

PASSING IS NO SOLUTION FOR GAYS

According to Jack Babuscio, director of FRIEND, a British homosexual counseling service, "passing for straight is the most effective means available of destroying group cohesion among homosexuals." (This is probably why Senator John Briggs wants Gays to stay in the closet — keep us frightened and divided.) Gay counseling centers are springing up like crabgrass across the Western world. The British experience is most like our own, only more quaint in some ways. For example, when English homosexuals cruise the Johns the practice is known as "cottageing."

Babuscio has written of his adventures in talking with Gays in a new book (We Speak For Ourselves: Experiences in Homosexual Counseling, Fortress Press, \$4.95). He succeeds in avoiding the dry, academic, textbook approach by allowing his clients to speak for themselves.

As an advisor to homophiles, Babuscio finds that married Gays present the really complex challenge. This is the price of passing to please friends and relatives. But people do manage to survive. Witness the story told by a homophile named Lawrence:

You don't hear many Gay fathers tell their stories, do you? Until I joined a group of Gay fathers about a year ago, I had no contact with others in my situation. I had no idea about how they managed to deal with the question of their children...

The questions can be tricky. But really, if you're honest with your kid, they're not difficult to answer. Let me give just one example. A few weeks ago Kit, my daughter, was dropped off at the flat by her mother. John, my lover, was in the kitchen, in his pyjamas, putting together a late breakfast.

We had been expecting Kit, but John was a bit anxious. He has never met Kit before, though he had heard me talk about her a great deal...

After Kit had tucked away an egg, an orange drink, and three slices of toast, she looked over at John for a long, long minute. Then, turning towards me, she asked: "Who do you love the most in the world, Mom or John?"



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I said that I loved them both in different ways. I loved her mother with one kind of love which I wasn't able to give to John or to anybody else; and that I loved John with another kind of love which belonged to him and him alone.

"And other men? Do you love other men besides John?" she asked.

I thought about that for a moment, and then said, yes, I did. "Why?" "Because," I said, "loving people is something I've learned to do very well, something I hope I'm very good at."

Kit thought about that for a few seconds, and then said, "All right, so long as there is enough left over for me."

In hearing British Gays relate their problems, we stumble across incredible sagas of ignorance. A Gay named Stan tells the following:

Despite the story of Jonathan and David, I come from a religious background which suggests that I don't really exist. If you don't believe this, you have only to look in the 1971 edition of "The Encyclopedia Judaica." What you find there is truly astonishing; for example, the author of the entry on "homosexuality" speaks of a "virtual absence" of Gays or of the "rare incidence" of Gays among Jews! Now this just isn't true! Yet even Maimonides followed the Talmud in holding that Jews are "not suspect to practice homosexuality."

Jack Babuscio wraps up his survey by offering a list of do's and don'ts for parents of Gays, how to come out at work, and how to broach the subject to relatives. Despite the British emphasis, he has much to tell us that is down-to-earth and thought provoking. (This American edition has a forward by Malcolm Boyd and supplementary material by Barbara Giddings.)

It's good to see more Gays speaking out for themselves!

Frank J. Howell

Porn Corner

by George Robert

"El Paso Wrecking Corp."

Well, the Gage Brothers have done it again! Their newest film, **EL PASO WRECKING CO.**, now showing at the Nob Hill Cinema, is a winner.

The film picks up where **KANSAS CITY TRUCKING CO.** left off. We find Richard Locke and Fred Halstead bored due to a layover. After a shooting fracas, they get fired and leave K.C. for El Paso. On the way they stop off at Billie's Bar-B-Que — Billie played by Georgina Spelvin ("Devil in Miss Jones") porno superstar.

There is a scene here that is fantastic — a voyeur's delight — as Fred makes it in the basement with this dude while his wife watches from the side. The filming is well done, and the excitement of this sequence is only a preview of others to come.

There is also a jack-off

Finally, El Paso and the wrecking yard. There is a scene here between Fred, the owner of the company and his son, played by Jared Benson, a hot young man.

Before I forget it, the opening scene in El Paso between a WELL endowed Mexican gardener and a houseman is something




Mike Morris as Mr. Harris in "El Paso Wrecking Corp."

sequence in the parking lot that is reminiscent of schoolboy circle jerks. else. All of this builds up to the supreme orgy at the end of the film. You will just have to see it to believe it.


The trip to El Paso is loaded with sexual fantasies and realities all along the road, most of them well done. The film ends as Fred and Richard bid farewell to each other, and we



EL PASO WRECKING CORP. at the Nob Hill. "A fine film!" says B.A.R. reviewer George Robert.



CHUCK



EXPLAINING MY SYMBOLS:

To the left is a version of Capricorn, my birth sign. (Today is my birthday.) It is also used on my T-shirts and shoulder patches. On the right is my version of an old apothecary sign for URINE which I incorporated into the Mars or male sign (naturally) and made into lapel pins for my leather jacket.

All this plus the yellow handkerchief in my right hip pocket shows I am a "receiver" of GOLD WATER.

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ROUGH HOUSE

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DAILY

know that the third film in the series is soon to come, called L.A. TOOL & DIE CO.

The film is well done and the photography is excellent. I must commend the sound man for realistic (for a change), honest sound effects — although a little loud at times, effective.

The Gage Brothers use men, not young boys, in their films, which is refreshing. The addition of female roles also heightens the overall excitement and effects of the film. We strongly recommend this fine flick and know you will agree with us when you see it. Nob Hill Cinema is located at 729 Bush Street; call first for show times (781-9468) as it should be seen from the beginning. Enjoy!

People's Cultural Center

The Red Balloon Theatre Company presents their new show, "A Moment's Notice," at the People's Cultural Center, 721 Valencia St., in S.F., at 8:00pm on Friday, Jan. 20. The forty-five minute multi-media historical drama is about union busting and intrigue in strike-torn Chicago — 1877.

What do a Civil War vet, a dance hall girl and an ex-slave have in common? Come see "A Moment's Notice." Price: \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.

* * *
On Saturday, Jan. 21, at 8:00pm and Sunday, Jan. 22, at 2:00pm, the Peo-

ple's Cultural Center will have a performance by "Mischief Mime" — two women, Anne Rhodes and Barbara Anger, who create a mixture of traditional pantomime and modern, semi-improvisational "political" theater. Their work reflects a strong feminist consciousness while being amusing and thought provoking.

Operation Concern Opening

Operation Concern is seeking a half-time counselor for its Gay male program (including individual, couple, family and group counseling and psychotherapy in addition to intake evaluations, crisis interventions, community outreach, and program development).

An experienced and licensed clinical counselor is sought — one with experience with Gay men and Gay organizations.

The pay is \$550 per month (half-time) plus benefits. Send resumes to Operation Concern, 2323 Sacramento Street, San Francisco 94115. February 1 has been set as the starting date.

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Bar for sale. Stockton Ave. between 641 and Renegades. Great potential. Call 354-5798 or 279-9087 ask for Larry or Marv. E2

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One or two couples needed to manage/develop 50-rm hotel in SF being converted to budget-priced men's hostelry catering to intl tourist trade in YMCA-like operation but more luxurious. To apply for mgmt positions or to be placed on mailing list for opening date, write George Edwards, Box 15353, S.F., CA 943115 E1

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The B.A.R. carries more want ads than any other SF Gay paper.

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Richard Elmon

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26, 5'10", 150 lbs., 40" chest, SACH, 29" waist, brown hair, blue eyes, masculine and well hung...

ARNOLD

24, 5'11", 160 lbs., 40" chest, CACH, 29" waist, brown hair, brown eyes, has car, will travel...

JAMIE

27, 5'11", 155 lbs., 40" chest, hairy, brown hair, blue eyes, manly collegiate good looks

BILL

22, 6', 160 lbs., 40" chest, 30" waist, brown hair, hazel eyes, young man about town...

BOB

24, 6', 160 lbs., 40" chest, hairy, 30" waist, handsome, clean-cut, masculine, brown hair and green eyes...

CASEY

28, 6', 165 lbs., 42" chest, smooth, 30" waist, blond hair, blue eyes, very photogenic and versatile...

STEVE

24, 6', 160 lbs., 40" chest, hairy, 30" waist, handsome and masculine, makes for a perfect companion...

ROSS

27, 6', 170 lbs., 42" chest, SACH, brown hair, blue eyes, a man's man, has car and will travel...

MICHAEL

28, 6'1", 40" chest, hairy, 175 lbs., available day or evening, in or out. Enjoy S.F. safely...

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MASSAGE

Richard Elmon

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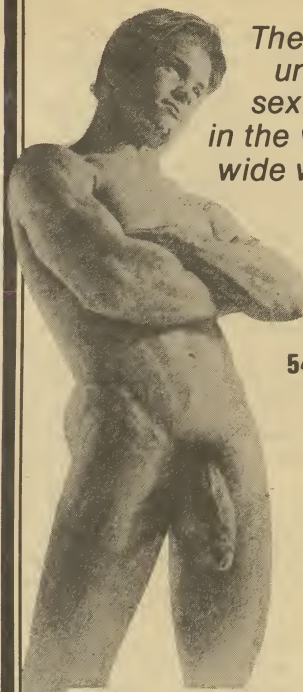
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Tall, slim, gdlkg, W/M, 29 seeks trim Asian guys. Mark, 673-2280 eves & w/e. E5

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All this excessive macho madness is a blue print for self deterioration. I'm tired of males, straight or Gay, who have alienated themselves from affection, are incapable of an equal, sharing and caring relationship free of the regressive manipulation and competition most of these ads call for. I am seeking spontaneity sexually and socially in a relationship with another male 28 to 40 who hasn't been crippled by all the impossible neurotic nonsense of the strong, silent male symbolism. I'm in search of an extroverted male like myself who likes a home and the outdoors. One who hasn't been conditioned by family or society to live a life of mounting frustration and loneliness. One who isn't hiding himself to earn a living, yet is self-supporting. I'm turned on by natural masculinity, not the kind that's taken out of the closet and worn. My sexual turn-on's are being caring, versatile and spontaneous. On the subject of endowments, my interests lie in being loved — not filled up. I am in my early 30's, 6'2", 180lbs., hairy, good-looking, have a mustache, brown eyes and brown hair. No beard and I'm not crazy about them with some exceptions. A sensible response to this ad will result in the same in return. I've given the alert reader a rather revealing look at my overall personality without leaving myself in a vulnerable situation; you can be just as tactful if you wish. Frankly, I would like a photo in return, which I will be glad to send you back. Your phone number would also be appreciated. Absolutely out of the question are people with the following psychological problems: S&M, B&D, overweight or in general guilt-oriented behavior. Please write Alan, P.O. Box 301, Orinda, CA 94563 E2

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First 5 men in the door between Noon & 12:15 only \$1.00, Mon thru Fri only at Fred's Health Club, 1718 Broadway, Redwood City, 365-9303 E8

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Work near VanNess/Market. I would like to meet guys living or working in area. Larry, Box 131, Oak, 94604 E2

Mexican boyfriend wanted by nice white guy Call 824-7259 before noon or after 10PM. *E2

Love Times; Gay pen pal paper. Sample \$3. Inquire membership: Box 15607, Hono, HI 96815. Ads 25¢ per word. E3

Sierra glider pilot seeking man with same interests. W. Hanson, Box 1802, Tahoe City, CA 95730. E3

W/M, 62, Gr.ppass, slim, steady, easy going, wants 7" studs anytime — day, night or weekends. No drugs, S/M or money. Pleasure and friendship only. 825-9069 E3

Goodlooking Filipino guy, 5'5", 121lbs., looking for men over 30 for fun and games. I have a PhD in taking it in the rear. Definitely a lover. Call Mike, 673-6925. E2

Nude Exhibitionist Wanted
Do you get off on being an exhibitionist? Prefer that you be a trim, young white male under 26 years of age. I will give you a sensual massage in exchange for your nude modeling. No strings attached. Mellow experience only. Call Rick, 387-4820. E3

Anyone going to Northern and Western Europe in mid Aug? Glenn, SJ (408) 267-7468. E2

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ROOMMATES

Share studio nr Polk St. \$72. Resp. quiet. 928-0875. E2

Gay male seeks room in apt/house Palo Alto-S.J. area. Psych student. Phone Larry (415) 325-5852 E2

W/M 30's desires W/M 25-35 to share lg lux home in Fairfield-Vallejo area. Desire military person or very strl appearing indiv. Furn. avail. \$170 + util. (707) 864-0250 eve. E4

Share apt. — 50 yr. old man seeks man under 35, light or non-drinker in Sacramento. Sex nice but not necessary. Call (916) 443-8791. E2

Room & Board. Very nice 3 bdrm Vic flat Castro area. Pvt rm. \$50 per week. Phone 621-6769. E2

Employed Gay guy, 32, needs furnished sleeping room with shower in Pleasant Hill for 3 days per week. Call 454-7365 after 7:00 PM. E3

FOR RENT

1 & 2 BR apt. Large, airy, quiet, good shopping, 20 min. into Marin off 101. 897-0323 E3

EXTRA LARGE, beautiful, spacious 7RM Vict. flat. Comp remod 3bdr, dbl parl, dng rm, 2frpl, w/w cpt, pvt gdn, all appl, wsh/dryer, stor. Ideal for 3. Pierce/Bush. Avail 2/1/78. \$500. 921-6557 lv message. Refs. E2

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\$375-475. Russ Hill view dlx all-new studio & 1BR in Vict on garden courtyard. 771-0988 eves & weekend. E2

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1BR \$250 w/1w remod also 1 sm BR \$200 w/1 clean 626-4767 Peter 453-1414 St or 626-6807 Bill E*

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LARGE STUDIO, UNFURNISHED, SOLID BLDG., GOOD NEIGHBORS. \$130. 315 HYDE 885-3285. E2

\$225 Victorian flat 1 bdrm Fell-Laguna 885-3035 eves. E2

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A RARE OPPORTUNITY

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STORES, gd rtl & whsl locations, attr Vict fronts. \$125 to \$500. Best oppty in City for relocation. Call 863-6262. M-F 8-5PM B2

\$365 penthouse, Alamo Sq, 180 degree city — Bay vw, elec kit, off st. pkg, 885-3035 eves E2

Webster/Pine 5 room Vict. flat. Quiet alley st, sunny 1 bdrm & den. Deck & wrking frplc. Sm pet OK. \$335. Call 563-6278 eves. E2

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3 rm flat, Victorian, 3 blks to Market. \$200/mo. John 626-3671, nite 931-4156. E2

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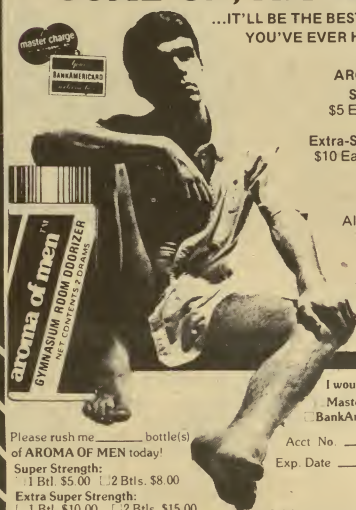
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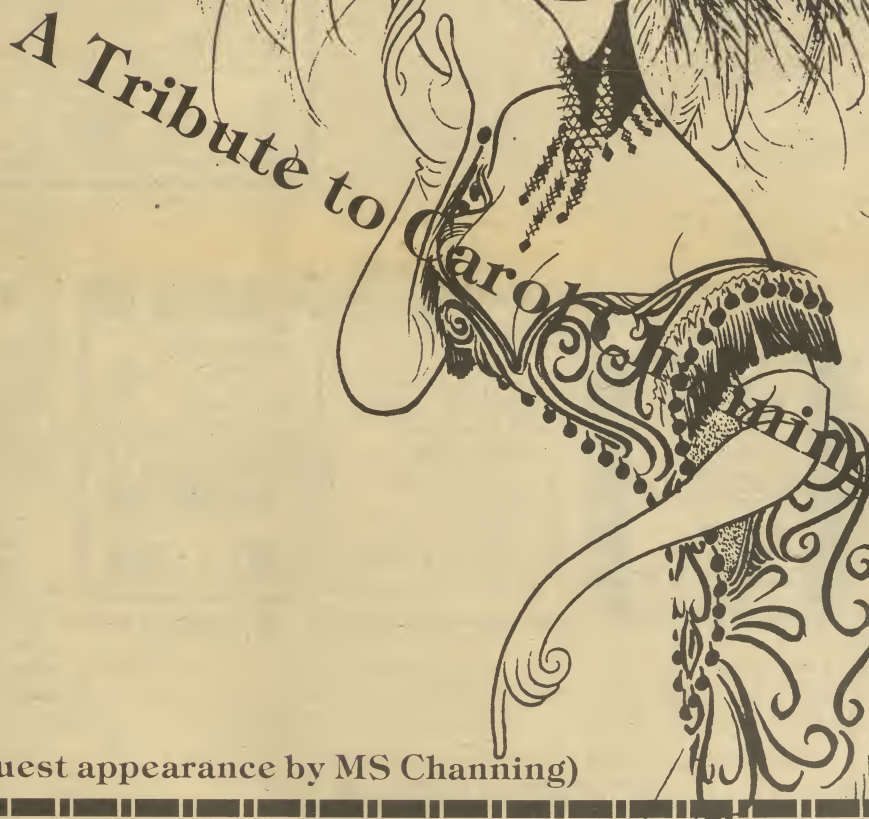
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